19/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Signs $1.55 Billion Federal Funding Agreement to Build First Rail Transit System in Hawaii
12/17/2012	Federal Transit Administration Highlights Launch of New Bus Rapid Transit Service in San Antonio
12/14/2012	Federal Transit Administration Announces Opening of Transit Center at University of Idaho Campus
12/14/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Approves $120 Million Loan to Strengthen Public Transit in Dallas
12/12/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Charlotte Streetcar Starter Line
12/5/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $15.5 Million to Improve Transit Options for American Indians, Alaska Natives on Tribal Lands
11/12/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Celebrates New Bus Rapid Transit Service in Monterey
10/18/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $32 Million to Build Silver Line Bus Rapid Transit in Grand Rapids
10/16/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $580 Million To Extend Charlotte's LYNX Blue Line
10/12/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $75 Million to Extend Light Rail in Arizona
10/11/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $942.2 Million to Extend San Francisco's Third Street Light Rail System
10/10/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Tours State-of-Good-Repair and Recovery Act Investments in South Dakota
10/1/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Approves $545.9 Million Loan to Advance Public Transit in Los Angeles
9/28/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Celebrates Opening of New Bus Rapid Transit Lines in Fast-Growing Seattle Communities
9/20/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Kicking Off First Public Meeting on New Transit Safety and Oversight Authority
9/19/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Joins Cleveland Officials for New Transit Station Groundbreaking
9/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $3 Million for New Zero- Emission Electric Buses, Charging Station in Nashville

9/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $59.3 Million for Clean, Energy-Efficient Transit Projects Across the United States
9/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $3.3 Million for New Fuel-Efficient Buses and Facilities in St. Cloud, Minnesota
9/5/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Announces Transit Improvements for Military, Civilian Workers in Maine, New Hampshire
8/30/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Calls on States to Prepare to Strengthen Transit Safety Oversight in Advance of New Federal Transit Safety Authority
7/26/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $14 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Facilities in North Carolina
7/25/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Visits Miami to Highlight New Federal Safety Oversight for Transit
7/24/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $2.5 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in New Mexico
7/23/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $76 Million To Upgrade Statewide Bus Fleet, Improve Transit Service in New Jersey
7/23/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $46.7 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in Michigan
7/23/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $45 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in Maryland
7/23/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $36.5 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in Massachusetts
7/23/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $787 Million to Repair, Modernize Nation’s Aging Transit Infrastructure
7/23/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $45.7 Million to Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area
7/16/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Joins Congressional and Safety Leaders to Highlight FTA’s Historic New Authority for Strengthening Transit Safety Nationwide
7/11/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces a $12.8 Million TIGER Grant to Rebuild Philadelphia’s Wayne Junction Power Substation
7/2/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $29 Million to Help Veterans and Military Families Connect to Jobs and More by Tapping Local Transportation
6/25/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $20 Million TIGER Grant to Modernize Chicago’s 95th Street Terminal

6/22/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $10 Million TIGER Grant for New Rail Transportation Center in Delaware
6/9/2012	FTA Administrator Rogoff Celebrates Grand Opening of New Recovery Act-Funded Ames Transportation Hub
6/1/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Awards $37.5 Million To Build Two New Bus Rapid Transit Lines in Seattle Region
5/22/2012	FTA Deputy Administrator Joins Officials in St. Louis To Kick Off Eads Bridge Rehabilitation Project
5/22/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $745.2 Million to Build Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Line in Oregon
5/21/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces $54.5 Million To Construct New Bus Rapid Transit Line in Fort Collins
5/15/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Announces $5.1 Million for New Buses, Fueling Station to Enhance Bus Rapid Transit Service in Reno
5/14/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Joins Nevada Officials for Opening of Sahara Express Bus Rapid Transit Service in Las Vegas
5/9/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Attends Groundbreaking of Sugar House Streetcar Project
5/7/2012	U.S. Department of Transportation Announcing Launch of Month-Long National Dialogue to Improve Transportation for Veterans, Military Families
5/4/2012	FTA Administrator Rogoff Celebrates New Transit Facilities in Massachusetts
5/4/2012	FTA Deputy Administrator Joins Maine Officials for Opening of Acadia National Park Gateway Center Transportation and Maintenance Facility
4/23/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Attends Grand Opening of Wickford Junction Rail Station
4/19/2012	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates 42nd Earth Day by Bringing Cleaner, Greener Transportation Choices to America
4/14/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Joins Colorado Officials To Break Ground on Nation’s First Rural Rapid Bus Service
4/12/2012	FTA Administrator Rogoff Joins San Jose Officials to Break Ground on BART Rail Extension to Silicon Valley
4/12/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Gives Transit Agencies in 175 Cities Greater Flexibility in Managing Rising Fuel Prices
4/12/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Attends Groundbreaking of $196.6 Million Tucson Streetcar Project

4/11/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Tours BART's Hayward Maintenance Yard to Highlight Value of Maintaining Nation's Aging Transit Systems
4/10/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $38 Million for Rapid Bus Service that will Increase Transportation Choices in Austin
4/2/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $13.1 Million To Advance the Adoption of Clean, Green Energy for Transit
3/16/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Proposes to Streamline Environmental Reviews for Transit Projects, Dramatically Cutting Red Tape and Improving Transparency without Short-Changing the Environment
3/16/2012	New Department of Transportation Report on Highway and Transit Conditions Underscores Need for Transportation Investment
3/12/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $25 Million to Advance Local Transit Options for an America Built to Last
3/12/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $900 Million to Extend San Francisco's BART Rail Line into Silicon Valley
3/9/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $15 Million to Enhance Transit Options on Tribal Lands for an America Built to Last
2/24/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff Joins Florida Officials To Highlight President's Budget Proposal for Greater Investment as Part of an 'America Built to Last'
2/24/2012	FTA Deputy Administrator McMillan Attends Grand Opening of Sustainable Paratransit Facility in Toledo; Highlights President's Call for Investment in an America Built to Last
2/23/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff's Green Line Tour Highlights Economic Development Resulting from Federal Investment
2/17/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Kicks Off Construction of Cincinnati's New Streetcar Line, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of an 'America Built to Last'
2/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $70 Million To Expand Transit Choices in Charlotte, North Carolina
2/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $250 Million Toward Honolulu's High-Capacity Transit Corridor
2/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $15.2 Million Toward Construction of Bus Rapid Transit in El Paso, Texas
2/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $20 Million Toward Construction of Light Rail in Phoenix Region
2/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $38.2 Million Toward Construction of Two Bus Rapid Transit Lines in Jacksonville, Florida

2/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $119.4 Million For Oregon Transit Infrastructure Projects
2/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $346.7 Million For Five California Transit Infrastructure Projects
2/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $14.7 Million Toward Construction of Bus Rapid Transit in Grand Rapids, MI
2/14/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $2.2 Billion to Strengthen Backbone of America's Transportation Network
2/7/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces Second Round of Funding to Improve Veterans' Access to Transportation
2/6/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Announces $468,736 to Clay County Council on Aging for Buses, Equipment
2/6/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces More Than $826 Million to Modernize and Repair the Nation's Transit Buses and Facilities, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of an America Built to Last
2/6/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Tours Construction of Denver's West Rail Line, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of an "America Built to Last"
2/1/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Kicks Off Construction of Downtown Atlanta's New Streetcar Line, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of an America Built to Last
1/31/2012	Federal Transit Administrator Tours Proposed Transit Lines in North Carolina's Research Triangle, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of "An America Built to Last"
1/30/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Touts President Obama's State of the Union Commitment to Rebuild America During Dilworth Plaza Groundbreaking
1/25/2012	US Transportation Secretary LaHood Proposes Streamlining Major Transit Awards, Addressing Local Needs and Cutting Red Tape
1/17/2012	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $40.8 Million to Improve Access to America's National Parks, Forests, Wildlife Refuges
1/12/2012	The Federal Transit Administration Showcases Economic Development at the Site of the SW Moody Avenue Streetcar Project

The Federal Transit Administration Showcases Economic Development at the Site of the SW Moody Avenue Streetcar Project

FTA Administrator Shows Conference Attendees How Project Has Spurred
Development of Central City's Largest Piece of Vacant Land

1/12/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

PORTLAND, Ore. – As a highlight of the Federal Transit Administration's First Streetcar Conference, FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff today showcased Portland's Moody Avenue reconstruction project as an example of how well-planned and executed transit projects may serve as a catalyst for economic development. The two-day roundtable discussion was held to assist transportation planners from eleven cities around the country to learn how to best implement federally-funded streetcar projects in their communities.

"The reconstruction of Moody Avenue demonstrates how investment in transit can create a ripple effect, stimulating development and creating jobs while easing congestion and improving our environment," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, who was in Portland last March to help break ground for the project.

In addition to greatly expanding transportation options in the area, the project unlocks development of Portland's largest piece of vacant land in

the central city. With new utilities installed and new streetcar, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian connections built, Moody Avenue will serve the planned development of a 43-acre site owned by Zidell Marine Corp., as well as Oregon Health and Science University's 18-acre Shnitzer Campus, home to the 480,000 square-foot Collaborative Life Sciences Building, which will integrate Moody Avenue Light Rail Station into its construction and development.

"The City of Portland and TriMet have hit a home run with this project and demonstrate the enormous economic benefits transit can deliver to a community," Administrator Rogoff said. "Two hundred fifty people have been put to work converting a site that once was a toxic Brownfield into a thriving transportation and business corridor."

The Portland streetcar effort is a victory for the city and its residents and federal investments in streetcar systems across the country are reinvigorating an industry that until recently no longer existed in the United States for many decades. The streetcars will be manufactured in Portland by United Streetcar, a subsidiary of Oregon Iron Works, evidence of the industry's rebirth.

ArcelorMittal, located in Steelton, Pennsylvania, has become the first domestic steelmaker to enter an emerging market for so-called block rail—a product that is being used, for the first time in the United States, to help build the new Portland streetcar line. ArcelorMittal employees 700 employees in Steelton, and the streetcar revival
may one day eliminate the need to import streetcar rail from foreign countries.

Rogoff was joined by Portland Mayor Sam Adams, Portland Bureau of Transportation Director Tom Miller, TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane and conference attendees on a tour of the reconstruction effort, which was funded in part by a $23 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program.

The Recovery Act funds were used to create dual streetcar tracks, widening Moody Avenue, and raising it up 14 feet in order to link with a transit bridge that accommodates streetcar, light rail, bus, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Raising the street also allowed surrounding land, which had been designated a Superfund cleanup site, to be capped, opening up the large parcels of land for development.

The project is truly multi-modal, bringing bus and light rail service to the neighborhood, strengthening connections to the Portland Aerial Tram and Portland Streetcar, and enhancing bicycle and pedestrian access.

Rogoff also announced that the Portland area will now also have access to a $2 million grant to study the Southwest Corridor, which has been locally identified as the next corridor in the area for a major transit investment. The funds were originally announced in 2010.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $40.8 Million to Improve Access to America's National Parks, Forests, Wildlife Refuges

Federal Lands in 24 States and the District of Columbia Use Funds to Enhance Transportation Choices for a cleaner, "greener" visitor experience

1/17/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced $40.8 million for 58 projects that will provide safe, convenient access for visitors to America's national parks, forests and wildlife refuges, and modernize aging transportation infrastructure. The money is provided by the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks program.

Our nation's scenic parklands and protected areas are national treasures attracting millions of visitors each year," said Secretary LaHood." "It's vitally important to preserve and protect these lands for today's visitors as well as future generations by investing in safe, accessible and environmentally sustainable transportation."

The U.S. National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and local partner communities will receive FTA funds for the projects, which range from redesigning and widening the Nauset Bicycle Trail at Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts to purchasing new buses to transport visitors between Sausalito and the Muir Woods National Monument in California.

"By taking cars off the road and reducing harmful emissions and pollutants in our nation's most natural and pristine settings, we're helping Americans and" visitors from around the world enjoy the parks, forests and wildlife preserves the way they were meant to be enjoyed," said "FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff.

Administrator Rogoff visited Cuyahoga Valley National Park today, to announce five grants totaling $3.2 million for the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, which has been a very successfully and popular attraction at the national park outside Cleveland, OH.

FTA's Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks program was established by Congress to enhance the protection of national parks and federal lands and increase the enjoyment of those visiting them. The grants announced today will come primarily from Fiscal Year 2011 funds, with additional funding being provided from Fiscal Year 2012 funds.

Administered by the FTA in partnership with the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service, the program funds capital and planning expenses for alternative transportation systems, such as shuttle buses and bicycle trails, in national parks and public lands. The goals of the program are to conserve natural, historical and cultural resources, and reduce congestion and pollution.

A complete list of projects can be found at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html

###

US Transportation Secretary LaHood Proposes Streamlining Major Transit Awards, Addressing Local Needs and Cutting Red Tape

LaHood Proposes Streamlining Major Transit Awards

1/25/2012
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WASHINGTON – During his State of the Union Address on Tuesday night, President Obama called on federal agencies to cut red tape in construction projects. Accepting that challenge, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today proposed a significant change in the way major transit projects compete for federal funds by streamlining the process and making decisions more responsive to local needs.

"This proposal would move more job-generating bus, rail and ferry projects from the drawing boards into construction sooner and with less red tape along the way," said Secretary LaHood. "President Obama has asked government agencies to cut red tape, eliminate waste, and streamline bureaucracy wherever possible, and that's exactly what we're doing."

The proposed changes could potentially shave six months or more off the time that is now required to move major projects through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts pipeline. This new approach

may also result in financial savings for the federal government and local taxpayers by allowing approved projects to begin construction sooner, thereby saving on finance charges and other costs.

The streamlined proposal would allow the FTA to focus more on local needs, such as economic development, revitalization and responding to historically underserved populations while reducing or eliminating certain time-consuming technical requirements that are duplicative or unnecessary.

"Our process for selecting big capital projects is historically successful"but at times painfully and unnecessarily complicated," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "We're aiming to make common-sense changes that will make a big difference to communities throughout the United States that need more mobility, and better access to jobs, sooner rather than later."

Other benefits from the changes would include increased transparency and continued rigorous scrutiny of each project proposal. By giving greater emphasis to evaluation criteria concerning environmental benefits and local economic impact, it would be possible for FTA to consider a variety of smaller-scale projects that might better meet a community's needs, including streetcars and rapid bus services.

The proposed changes are described in FTA's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to streamline the evaluation and rating of New Starts and Small Starts projects, published in two separate notices in today's Federal Register are the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (PDF), and Notice of Availability (PDF).

A 60-day public comment period on the proposed rule begins today. Comments may be formally submitted to the federal government's docket website at Regulations.gov. FTA also plans to hold a number public listening sessions and an online informational webinar; details will be announced in a future Federal Register notice. All received input will be taken into consideration before a final rule is issued.

The New Starts and Small Starts program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the U.S. Government. FTA's final Fiscal Year 2012 appropriation includes more than $2 billion in capital projects requested by President Obama under FTA's capital investment program. Proposed projects such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

FTA's streamlining effort was undertaken in response to an announcement in January 2010 by Transportation Secretary LaHood to change how major transit projects are selected to receive federal financial assistance from FTA. As part of this initiative, FTA rescinded restrictions issued by the Bush Administration in March of 2005 that greatly limited the factors that would be considered when evaluating transit projects seeking federal matching dollars.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Touts President Obama's State of the Union Commitment to Rebuild America During Dilworth Plaza Groundbreaking

Renovation of Philadelphia's City Hall Plaza to Create Hundreds of Jobs, Improve Transit Connections, Boost Economy

1/30/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

PHILADELPHIA – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today joined Philadelphia area officials to break ground on construction to renovate Dilworth Plaza, a project that reflects President Obama's blueprint for an "America Built to Last" by transforming the deteriorated public plaza next to Philadelphia's City Hall into a prominent gateway for regional public transportation.

The Secretary was joined at the groundbreaking by Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, Congressman Chaka Fattah, Mayor Michael Nutter and other area officials.

"President Obama has challenged us to build an economy that works for everyone, and with the work starting today, Dilworth Plaza will meet that challenge," said Secretary LaHood. "All across America, there is work to be done on projects like this." Now is the time to connect people who need work with the work we need to do to improve our nation's transit centers, highways, railways, airports and ports."

Secretary LaHood's visit follows President Obama's State of the Union address, in which he called for using funds saved from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to pay down the debt and to support a transportation bill that would clear the way for nation building here in the United States.

In addition to improving access to multiple transit connections and spurring economic development in the key area surrounding City Hall, the project is expected to create hundreds of local construction-related jobs. The renovation will create an inviting, accessible public space at the street level and access to Philadelphia's extensive network of underground transit lines.

Philadelphia can take pride in this fantastic revitalization of a great public space, being rebuilt to last as part of President Obama's commitment to rebuild America, said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. This project is creating jobs at a time they are needed most and making it easier for the hundreds of thousands of people who take public transit to access Center City.

Located on the west side of Philadelphia's City Hall, Dilworth Plaza sits atop the intersection of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority's (SEPTA) Market-Frankford and Broad Street lines, subway-surface trolley lines serving University City, West Philadelphia and adjacent suburbs, and regional rail lines. More than 300,000 transit riders use those lines each day to access downtown Philadelphia.

As part of the Dilworth Plaza renovation, glass entrances with animated lighting at night will clearly direct riders to transit lines. In addition, the plaza's new design, which includes a large lawn, shaded seating areas, fountain and outdoor caf, will create an inviting space accessible from the street without the use of stairs or ramps.

The $50 million Dilworth Plaza project is being funded by a $15 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant by the Obama Administration, a $15.5 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and additional funding from the City of Philadelphia, SEPTA and from local foundations.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Tours Proposed Transit Lines in North Carolina's Research Triangle, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of "An America Built to Last"

Vision for Transit in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill Would Create Jobs, Boost Economy

1/31/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

RALEIGH, N.C. – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined North Carolina officials for a tour of proposed transit lines designed to connect Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. "Plans to expand and improve transit options to support innovation in the Research Triangle, one of the nation's most important industrial resources, reflect the Obama Administration's "Blueprint for an America Built to Last."

""President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work constructing transit systems, roads, bridges and airports that are built to last," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "There is work to be done on projects like this all across the country." Transportation projects like these will help boost American jobs and American manufacturing."

Administrator Rogoff's visit follows President Obama's State of the Union address, in which he called for using money saved from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to pay down the debt and on a transportation bill that would clear the way for nation-building here in the United States.

"Thanks to the President's bold actions, our nation's economy is growing again and federal investments in transportation around the country are putting Americans to work, spurring economic development and giving people greater opportunity," said Administrator Rogoff. "Expanding transit options in the Research Triangle area would bring the same economic benefits to this region, give people an alternative to sitting in traffic and allow them to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks in their pockets."

North Carolina officials, residents and transit advocates have been exploring public transportation improvements that would connect the rapidly growing cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, and make it easier for people to travel throughout the region, which is home to numerous universities and high-tech companies.

Local planning organizations have identified three priority transit corridors in the Research Triangle area for major transit investments over the next 30 years and recommended alternatives for further study, including light rail and commuter rail. An expanded bus network also is under review.

Administrator Rogoff toured the proposed transit corridors with Congressman David Price, Congressman Brad Miller, Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane, Durham Mayor Bill Bell, Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, Triangle Transit General Manager David King and other local officials.

The tour began at the Durham Amtrak Station and included visits to downtown Durham; the Durham Transportation Center, where real-time bus arrival information helps riders know when to expect the next bus; downtown Raleigh; and the Dillon Viaduct Building, where a Union Station transit hub is planned. The tour concluded at North Carolina State University, where two light rail stations are proposed.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Kicks Off Construction of Downtown Atlanta's New Streetcar Line, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of an America Built to Last

Roughly Half the $94 Million Streetcar Project is Funded by a TIGER II Grant

2/1/2012
Contact: David Longo
(202) 366-0608

ATLANTA – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today helped kick off construction of a new 2.6-mile streetcar line that will run through the heart of Atlanta's business, tourism, and convention corridor, bringing jobs and new development to the city and reflecting President Obama's blueprint for an America that's built to last. The Secretary was joined at the kick off by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and local officials.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation projects that are built to last, like Atlanta's modern streetcar line," said Secretary LaHood. "All across America, there is work to be done on projects like this. Now is the time to connect people who need work with the work we need to do to improve our nation's transit centers, highways, railways, airports and ports."

Secretary LaHood's visit follows President Obama's State of the Union address, in which he called for using funds saved from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to pay down the debt and fund a six-year transportation bill that would clear the way for nation-building here in the United States.

The Atlanta streetcar will traverse an economically distressed area of downtown, serving as a catalyst for millions of dollars in new residential, official, and retail development. It also reconnects the eastern and western sides of the city that have been divided by two interstate highways for half a century. The streetcar will eventually serve about 7,000 people who live within a quarter-mile of the route, as well as more than five million tourists and convention-goers. Operated by MARTA (Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authority), it will include 12 stops with access to major attractions like the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and the historic Auburn Avenue corridor, which is the birthplace of the Civil Rights movement. The

line will also connect with MARTA's heavy rail and bus systems and city bicycle routes.

The streetcar project heeds President Obama's call for a new era for American energy, fueled by homegrown and alternative energy sources, and because the streetcar will be powered by electricity, it will produce zero emissions. Throughout construction of the line, the City of Atlanta, MARTA, and all other stakeholders will use sustainable building materials, recycled materials, and renewable energy sources to make the system as "green" as possible. And overall, locally expanding transit options will help reduce vehicle miles traveled, which lessens our dependence on oil and reduces emissions.

"The Atlanta streetcar project is creating American jobs, using American-made materials," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "It's a great reflection of the President's support for American manufacturing and for giving everyone a fair shot at success by investing in the infrastructure our country needs right now."

Secretary LaHood travelled to Atlanta in October, 2010, to announce $47.6 million for the streetcar project through the Department's second round of TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants. It was the largest of the capital TIGER II grants awarded in 2010. The project is a cooperative effort by the City of Atlanta, the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District (ADID) and MARTA. The City and ADID funded the balance of the project.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Tours Construction of Denver's West Rail Line, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of an "America Built to Last"

Project is Key to Denver's Long-Term Goal to Expand Access to Opportunity

2/6/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064

DENVER - U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today toured Denver's West Rail Line project, which will improve access to major employers and area universities while reducing traffic in a highly congested corridor, all part of President Obama's vision of an "America Built to Last."

The Secretary was joined by Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, Denver Regional Transportation District General Manager Phil Washington and other officials.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation projects, and we are doing that throughout the Denver region," said Secretary LaHood. "All across America, there is work to be done on projects like the West Rail Line. Now is the time to connect people who need work with the work we need to do to improve our nation's transit centers, highways, railways, airports and ports."

The 12-mile project has created more than 500 construction-related jobs, according to the Denver Regional Transportation District.

Secretary LaHood's visit follows President Obama's State of the Union address, in which he called for using funds saved from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to pay down the debt and to support a transportation bill that would clear the way for nation-building here in the United States.

At the West Line project, Secretary LaHood also spoke about the importance of continuing to fund transit projects nationwide, in the wake of recent efforts in the House to remove a primary source of funding for transit systems.

�With record high transit ridership, now is not the time to retreat from President Obama�s vision of an �America built to last� by eliminating a guaranteed funding source for public transportation that has been in place since the Reagan Administration,� said Secretary LaHood. �More and more Americans are looking for greater choices in transportation today, and it�s important we provide the funding to ensure transit remains one of the choices.�

The West Rail Line, now 85 percent complete, is expected to open in May 2013. Roughly half of the $709.8 million West Rail Line project is funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), including a $308 million federal funding agreement awarded in January 2009.

When the Denver Regional Transportation District opens the West Rail Line next year, it will be the first completed leg of Denver�s comprehensive multibillion-dollar transit expansion plan, known as FasTracks. FasTracks will add 122 miles of new commuter rail and light rail and 18 miles of bus rapid transit across the eight-county district.

Other FasTracks projects the Obama Administration has helped fund include a $1 billion agreement signed in August 2011 for the Eagle P3, a 30-mile commuter rail project that will provide the city�s first connection to Denver International Airport and put an estimated 4,700 people to work. The Administration has also provided funding from a number of sources for the restoration of Denver�s historic Union Station, the centerpiece of FasTracks, including $28.4 million from the Recovery Act, $59.5 million in other federal grants, and more than $300 million in federal loans.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces More Than $826 Million to Modernize and Repair the Nation's Transit Buses and Facilities, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of an America Built to Last

Discretionary Funds Support State-of-Good-Repair, Sustainability Objectives for Transit

2/6/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the availability of $826.5 million in Fiscal Year 2012 discretionary funds to modernize and repair transit vehicles and facilities around the country and promote the widespread use of sustainable clean fuel. The funding commitment highlights President Obama's call for investing in an America that's built to last.

"An American economy that's built to last must be built on a solid foundation, and when we have buses, transit facilities, and other equipment that's in disrepair, we simply cannot afford to ignore them," Secretary LaHood said. "The President knows that transportation projects like those we'll fund from today's announcement will help provide businesses and families with the safest, fastest, most efficient way to connect with opportunity."

"Reliable and desirable transit systems enable hard-working American families to keep billions of dollars in their wallets rather than hand them over at the gas pump," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "These investments will ensure that transit remains a dependable option and advance President Obama's goal for an America Built to Last."

The notice of funding availability (NOFA) published in today's *Federal Register (PDF)* invites competitive proposals for three of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) top policy priorities through the discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities and Clean Fuels grant programs, all subject to funding availability, as follows:

- **State of Good Repair**. Approximately $650 million available in FY2012 discretionary funds will bring the three-year total to $1.5 billion for over 300 projects aimed at replacing or rehabilitating transit infrastructure and for transit asset management. As transit

ridership continues to increase putting even greater demand on our transit systems, FTA will also consider maintenance facility and equipment expansion requests to help address ongoing capacity constraints that limit a transit agency's ability to maintain vehicles and equipment in a state of good repair.

- **Livability**. Approximately $125 million is available for projects that will improve the quality of life through expanded transportation choices, new and better intermodal connections, reduced congestion, and/or services aimed at economically disadvantaged populations, including senior citizens and people with disabilities.
- **Clean Fuels**. Approximately $51.5 million is available to help communities meet national air quality standards that do not do so now. The program also supports the development and marketing of emerging clean fuel and advanced propulsion technologies for transit buses. This year, as in years past, FTA will consider expanding the eligible applicant pool by drawing upon additional discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities Program funds.

These discretionary funds are made available through FTA's Bus and Bus Facilities and Clean Fuels Programs. The public announcement of recipients receiving funds will be likely be made in July 2012. A complete schedule of FTA's upcoming discretionary programs, along with details on FTA's FY2012 apportionments, may be found here (PDF).

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Announces $468,736 to Clay County Council on Aging for Buses, Equipment

New equipment will serve veterans, elderly, and persons with disabilities

2/6/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064

CLAY COUNTY, Fla. • Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today announced a $468,736 grant to the Clay County Council on Aging to purchase buses and emergency communications equipment that will be used to serve the elderly, veterans and persons with disabilities.

Administrator Rogoff was joined at the Green Cove Springs Senior Center by Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL), Clay County Council on Aging Executive Director Al Rizer and other officials.

•President Obama has called on us to build an American economy that works for everyone, not just a few,• said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. •That includes access to transportation, so every America has the ability to get to work, to school or to the doctor. Investments like these reflect the President•s vision of a nation where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share and everyone plays by the same rules.•

Administrator Rogoff's announcement follows President Obama's State of the Union address, in which he called for using funds saved from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to pay down the debt and to support a transportation bill that would clear the way for nation-building here in the United States.

"Thanks to the President's bold actions, our nation's economy is growing again. Federal investments in transportation around the country are putting Americans to work and spurring economic development," said Administrator Rogoff. "We must ensure that veterans, seniors and people with disabilities in rural communities like Clay County are able to participate fully in these gains wherever they live, and improving access to reliable, affordable transportation is the key."

Administrator Rogoff also spoke about the importance of continuing to fund transit projects nationwide, in the wake of recent efforts in the House to remove a primary source of funding for transit systems.

"With record high transit ridership, now is not the time to retreat from President Obama's vision of an "America built to last" by eliminating a guaranteed funding source for public transportation that has been in place since the Reagan Administration," said Administrator Rogoff. "More and more Americans are looking for greater choices in transportation today, and it's important we provide the funding to ensure transit remains one of the choices."

The Clay County Council on Aging will use the funds to help purchase seven buses, four of which will replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful lives. This brings the total number of vehicles in the fleet to 40. Funds will also be used to acquire satellite radios to keep the transit system up and running during severe weather or other emergencies.

As Clay County's community transportation coordinator, the council assures mobility for those who are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation because of physical or mental disability, income status or age.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces Second Round of Funding to Improve Veterans' Access to Transportation

Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Funds Innovative "One-Call, One-Click" Transportation Resource Centers

2/7/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the availability of approximately $30 million to create or increase access to local and regional transportation resources that veterans and military families depend on to get to work, school and other destinations. The transit funding would boost access to jobs and training that America's service members need and deserve.

"In his State of the Union address, President Obama rightfully noted that this generation of heroes has made the United States safer and more respected around the world," said Secretary LaHood. "As tens of thousands of our military personnel return home, we must reward their sacrifices and those of their families with the services they need to more seamlessly reintegrate into their communities as quickly as possible. This investment helps to do that, and it serves as one small thank-you for their honorable service."

The previous round of Veterans Transportation and Community Living grants, announced in November 2011, provided $34.6 million for 55 projects in 32 states and Guam. Demand for the program was strong, with the Department receiving 70 eligible proposals seeking $52 million in funding requests to create "one-call, one-click" transportation resource centers around the United States last year.

The second round of Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative grants, funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), will continue to help states and communities build or expand "one-click, one-call" centers that offer comprehensive information on local transportation options and other community services, with just a single phone call or click of the mouse.

"The President asked that we do all that we can to support those who have served our country, and we are answering his challenge," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "We must ensure that our nation's

veterans and their families are able to connect to jobs, school, work and medical appointments wherever they live&#65533;and improving access to reliable, affordable transportation is key to helping them do so.&#65533;

The notice of funding availability for the program&#65533;s second round of grants is published today in the *Federal Register* (http://1.usa.gov/zYAEzx). Proposals are due on April 19, 2012. A list of the projects that have already been funded under the previous round is available here.

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative is led by the federal Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility, a permanent partnership of federal departments working together to better coordinate federal programs on behalf of people with disabilities, the elderly and low-income individuals. The Council is chaired by Secretary LaHood.

Additional information on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative is available at www.fta.dot.gov/veterans.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $2.2 Billion to Strengthen Backbone of America's Transportation Network

Funding for 29 Capital Transit Projects Will Create Jobs, Opportunities Across America

2/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

WASHINGTON - U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today recommended $2.2 billion in funding to begin or advance construction of 29 significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in 15 states.

The projects, included in President Obama's proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget, will put thousands of Americans to work building the vital infrastructure the nation needs to improve access to jobs while reducing U.S. dependence on oil and spurring new economic development.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation projects that are built to last," said Secretary LaHood. "The budget proposal released yesterday demonstrates our commitment to put people back to work to build the infrastructure we need that will improve our transit systems, highways, railways and airports well into the future. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

President Obama's proposed budget recommends investing $243.7 million for seven new transit construction projects, including rail and bus rapid transit projects in California, Florida, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, and Washington State. An additional 10 projects that were recommended for funding in previous years, but have not yet received federal commitments, will receive $769.5 million in this year's budget.

"President Obama is committed to building an America that works for all of us, and these projects will ensure that hard-working families have real transportation choices," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "They represent truly transformational investments that will provide the public with new and reliable ways to get to work, school, and medical appointments while easing congestion on many of our highways."

In addition to the transit construction projects that have not yet been funded, the proposed budget provides nearly $1.2 billion for the continued

funding of 12 rail and bus rapid transit projects already under construction in Dallas, Denver, Hartford, Houston, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York City, Northern Virginia, Orlando, Salt Lake City, and Seattle.

The New Starts and Small Starts capital investment program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the federal government. Proposed projects, such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries, are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff recently proposed changes to the New Starts/Small Starts program to reduce red tape in order to allow approved projects to begin construction sooner and help FTA focus more on local needs, such as economic development, community revitalization, and responding to historically underserved populations.

Examples of some of the projects in the President's proposed FY 2013 budget include:

- **Charlotte, North Carolina, LYNX Blue Line Extension (Northeast Corridor)**: The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) proposed the construction of a new light rail transit line that would extend from Uptown Charlotte, the region's central business district, northeast to the US 29 interchange and the University of North Carolina – Charlotte campus. Commuters along the I-85/US 29 corridor have suffered through increasing congestion that population increases and economic development are expected to only make worse. The LRT will be 9.3 miles and serve 11 new stations. The FTA plans to fund 50 percent of the total $1.07 billion project cost, or $534.6 million.
- **Jacksonville, Florida, Southeast Corridor and North Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**: The FTA recommended funding for two BRT projects in Jacksonville that will combine for 20 miles of new rapid transit routes and 21 new stations. The Southeast Corridor will receive its first recommendation for funding in the President's budget and the FTA will continue to support development of the North Corridor. The two corridors will serve a highly transit-dependent population along extremely congested parts of the Jacksonville area. The total cost of the two projects is more than $57 million, of which FTA will cover nearly $47 million, or 80 percent of the two projects.
- **Grand Rapids, Michigan, Silver Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**: The Interurban Transit Partnership proposed to implement a BRT line along Division Avenue from the Grand Rapids central business district to 60th Street/Division Avenue. The FTA will invest 80 percent of the total $35.3 million project cost, or $28.2 million. The project is

expected to offer commuters a true alternative to the highly congested US 13. The BRT will include real-time passenger information at stations, traffic signal priority, off-board fare collection, and the purchase of 10 low-floor, hybrid-fueled buses.

All the recommendations are part of the FTA's *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013*, available online here. Individual detailed project descriptions are available here.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $14.7 Million Toward Construction of Bus Rapid Transit in Grand Rapids, MI

President's FY 2013 Budget Recommends $2.2 Billion Recommended for 29 Capital Transit Projects Across America that Will Create Jobs, Opportunities

2/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today recommended $14.7 million in new transit construction funding for a 9.6-mile bus rapid transit (BRT) line that will offer speedy, efficient access to Grand Rapids' central business district and relieve congestion in one of the city's busiest corridors.

The project is included in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2013 budget submitted to Congress yesterday, which recommends $2.2 billion in funding to initiate or advance construction of 29 significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in 15 states.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation infrastructure projects that are built to last," said Secretary LaHood. "Throughout Michigan, there is work to be done on projects like these. The budget proposal released yesterday demonstrates our commitment to putting people back to work building the infrastructure we need to improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports well in to the future. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

The President's budget recommendation would provide funds to the Grand Rapids Interurban Transit partnership for a new Silver Line BRT system along busy Division Avenue from the Grand Rapids central business district to 60th Street at Division Avenue. The line would parallel US 131, which experiences heavy congestion on a daily basis.

"The Obama Administration continues to make transformational investments in our nation's transit infrastructure that open the door to more jobs and opportunities for millions of Americans," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "As the state of Michigan continues to rebound from a devastating recession, Grand Rapids' ability to deliver more good transportation options like the Silver Line is key to moving this

city forward economically, improving access to area employers, revitalizing downtown, and taking more cars off nearby roads.

Last month, Secretary LaHood visited Grand Rapids to celebrate the ribbon cutting for the Rapid bus system's new Wealthy Operations Center, a modern, efficient bus maintenance facility that will make it easier for area commuters to get where they're going. The $32 million center was funded with $10.6 million in Recovery Act funds, $17.4 million in other FTA funds, and other sources.

Today's recommendation is part of the FTA's *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013*, available online here. Individual detailed project descriptions are available here.

The New Starts and Small Starts capital investment program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the U.S. Government. Proposed projects, such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries, are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff recently proposed changes to this program to cut red tape in order to allow approved projects to begin construction sooner and help FTA focus more on local needs, such as economic development, community revitalization, and responding to historically underserved populations.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $346.7 Million For Five California Transit Infrastructure Projects

President's FY 2013 Budget Recommends $2.2 Billion Recommended for 29 Capital Transit Projects Across America that Will Create Jobs, Opportunities

2/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today recommended $346.7 million in funding to initiate construction for five significant rail and bus rapid transit (BRT) projects in California. The projects are included in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2013 budget, which will put thousands of Americans to work building the vital infrastructure our nation needs to improve access to jobs while reducing our dependence on oil and spurring new economic development.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation infrastructure projects that are built to last," said Secretary LaHood. "Throughout California, there is work to be done on projects like these. The budget proposal released yesterday demonstrates our commitment to putting people back to work building the infrastructure we need to improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports well in to the future. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

The spending plan included in President Obama's budget submitted to Congress yesterday recommends $2.2 billion in funding to initiate or advance construction for 29 significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in 15 states.

"The Obama Administration continues to make transformational investments in our nation's transit infrastructure that open the door to more jobs and opportunities for millions of Americans," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Northern California is a tremendous economic growth engine for the state as a whole, and building robust transit networks—light rail, heavy rail, and BRT—is essential to attracting and retaining the region's high-tech work force, while also improving access to jobs, training, and education that future generations will need to get ahead."

The President's funding recommendation for projects that would greatly improve transit accessibility in California include:

- $150 million to advance the second phase of construction of the San Francisco Central Subway light rail project, which will provide a vitally important direct rapid transit link connecting the Financial District, Union Square, and Chinatown in one of the city's densest corridors where demands on existing transit are extremely high and additional capacity is essential.
- $150 million for the Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension Project, which will greatly increase heavy rail transit service between the greater San Francisco Bay area and Santa Clara County, thereby relieving congestion along the I-880 and I-660 corridors.
- $45.6 million to extend the Sacramento South Corridor light rail transit line by 4.3 miles to the south, which will improve access to all the new jobs forecasted for downtown Sacramento, spur anticipated economic development along Route 99 and I-5, and add park-and-ride facilities for commuters.
- $10 million to construct the new Blackstone/Kings Canyon BRT service, a speedier, more efficient alternative to current local bus service that will use dedicated lanes and fewer stops to get riders to their destinations faster between North Fresno, downtown Fresno, and the Southeast growth area, where the population is growing rapidly.
- $10 million for San Francisco's new BRT service along Van Ness Ave.the first BRT service along a primary north-south transit route in the northern half of San Francisco. The service will reduce travel times and improve reliability in high-density neighborhoods where nearly half the residents do not own car.
- Two other projects that may also be eligible for an additional $81 million in funding if they meet the New Starts criteria in Fiscal Year 2013 are:

$50 million for Los Angeles Westside Subway Extension, which could add 6 miles of subway along Los Angeles highest transit ridership corridor.

$31 million for the Regional Transit Corridor, linking Los Angeles two highest ridership light rail lines through underground connections in downtown LA.

All the recommendations are part of the FTA's *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013*, available online here. Individual detailed project descriptions are available here.

The New Starts and Small Starts capital investment program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the U.S. Government. Proposed

projects, such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries, are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $119.4 Million For Oregon Transit Infrastructure Projects

President's FY 2013 Budget Recommends $2.2 Billion Recommended for 29 Capital Transit Projects Across America that Will Create Jobs, Opportunities

2/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today recommended $119.4 million in funding to initiate construction for up to two significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in Oregon. The projects are included in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2013 budget, which will put thousands of Americans to work building the vital infrastructure our nation needs to improve access to jobs while reducing our dependence on oil and spurring new economic development.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation infrastructure projects that are built to last," said Secretary LaHood. "Throughout Oregon, there is work to be done on projects like these. The budget proposal released yesterday demonstrates our commitment to putting people back to work building the infrastructure we need to improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports well in to the future. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

The spending plan included in President Obama's budget submitted to Congress yesterday recommends $2.2 billion in funding to initiate or advance construction of 29 significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in 15 states.

"The Obama Administration continues to make transformational investments in our nation's transit infrastructure that open the door to more jobs and opportunities for millions of Americans," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Portland and Eugene are both developing robust transit systems that improve access to jobs while also reflecting long-range plans to grow and manage these cities in ways that are sustainable, promote green space, and spur good transit-oriented housing, retail, and commercial projects."

The President's funding recommendation for projects that would greatly improve transit accessibility in Oregon include:

- $100 million for the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail project, which will create a new transit bridge over the Willamette River to facilitate the 7.3-mile expansion of the TriMet MAX Light Rail. This expansion will create significantly easier commutes for East Portland and Milwaukie in addition to fostering transit- oriented development on the South Waterfront in conjunction with Portland's expanding streetcar system.
- $19.4 million for the 5.8-mile West Eugene Emerald Express Expansion BRT line, which will expand the existing Franklin/Gateway Emerald Express BRT system. The project is central to Eugene's committed effort to manage growth in a sustainable way by connecting transit with the city's mixed-use centers. Access to the University of Oregon and Sacred Heart Medical Center will also be improved.

One other project—the transit portion of the multi-modal Columbia River Crossing—may also be eligible for an additional $39 million in funding if it meets the New Starts evaluation criteria in Fiscal Year 2013. The funds would go toward an extension of TriMet's Yellow Line light rail in north Portland, OR into downtown Vancouver, WA. The project would create the first inter-state transit crossing between the Pacific Northwest's two busiest metropolitan areas, while helping to relieve congestion on the I-5 bridges, also slated for replacement.

All the recommendations are part of the FTA's *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013*, available online here. Individual detailed project descriptions are available here.

The New Starts and Small Starts capital investment program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the U.S. Government. Proposed projects, such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries, are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

Secretary LaHood recently proposed changes to this program to cut red tape in order to allow approved projects to begin construction sooner and help FTA focus more on local needs, such as economic development, community revitalization, and responding to historically underserved populations.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $38.2 Million Toward Construction of Two Bus Rapid Transit Lines in Jacksonville, Florida

President's FY 2013 Budget Recommends $2.2 Billion Recommended for 29 Capital Transit Projects Across America that Will Create Jobs, Opportunities

2/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today recommended $38.2 million in new transit construction funding for Jacksonville's North Corridor and Southeast Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines, which together would expand transit service in densely populated, commuter-rich communities that serve many employers, retailers, health care providers, and schools.

The President's spending plans also recommends that the Central Florida Commuter Rail Transit project in Orlando, which has received FTA grant funding in prior years, should receive $30 million in continued New Starts funding in FY2013.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation infrastructure projects that are built to last," said Secretary LaHood. "Throughout Florida, there is work to be done on projects like these. The budget proposal released yesterday demonstrates our commitment to putting people back to work building the infrastructure we need to improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports well in to the future. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

The President's budget recommendation would provide funds to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority as follows:

- $19.1 million to connect the downtown BRT project under way to a new line running north of downtown Jacksonville to I-295. The North Corridor has the highest density of transit trips in Jacksonville's entire system, serves the highest concentration of households without cars, and serves a population where nearly half of residents use transit to commute to work.

- $19.1 million for a new BRT line running southeast of downtown Jacksonville to Southside Blvd. The Southeast corridor serves a mix of residential, commercial, industrial, office and retail businesses as well as health-related services and colleges. Many Southeast corridor residents are low-income and transit-dependent.

"The Obama Administration continues to make transformational investments in our nation's transit infrastructure that open the door to more jobs and opportunities for millions of Americans," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Jacksonville's two new BRT projects are a great start to building a high-capacity regional rapid transit system that connects with other transit services and powers Jacksonville's ability to continue serving as a major economic engine for North Florida."

The projects are included in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2013 budget submitted to Congress yesterday, which recommends $2.2 billion in funding to initiate or advance construction of 29 significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in 15 states.

The recommendations are part of the FTA's *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013*, available online here. Individual detailed project descriptions are available here.

The New Starts and Small Starts capital investment program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the U.S. Government. Proposed projects, such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries, are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff recently proposed changes to this program to cut red tape in order to allow approved projects to begin construction sooner and help FTA focus more on local needs, such as economic development, community revitalization, and responding to historically underserved populations.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $20 Million Toward Construction of Light Rail in Phoenix Region

2/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today recommended $20 million in new transit construction funding for a 3.1-mile extension of the Central Mesa Light Rail Transit line that will seamlessly connect two of Arizona's fastest-growing cities, Phoenix and Mesa.

The project is included in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2013 budget submitted to Congress yesterday, which recommends $2.2 billion in funding to initiate or advance construction of 29 significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in 15 states.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation infrastructure projects that are built to last," said Secretary LaHood. "Throughout Arizona, there is work to be done on projects like these. The budget proposal released yesterday demonstrates our commitment to putting people back to work building the infrastructure we need to improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports well in to the future. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

The President's budget recommendation would provide funds for new construction of a light rail line that will greatly improve access to major employment centers in Phoenix and Mesa and reduce congestion in Maricopa County.

"The Obama Administration continues to make transformational investments in our nation's transit infrastructure that open the door to more jobs and opportunities for millions of Americans," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Offering a transfer-free connection between the existing Central Phoenix light rail line and downtown Mesa will make it easier and more convenient for millions of commuters, students, and tourists to reach all of the major activity centers of downtown Phoenix, downtown Tempe, Arizona State University, and Sky Harbor International Airport."

The new light rail line is in addition to the existing Central Phoenix/East Valley Light Rail line, which opened in 2008. The FTA provided $587 million

for the existing project and its extensions, including $36 million from the Recovery Act, which is estimated to have spurred more than $5 billion in economic development along the Phoenix-Mesa corridor.

Today's recommendation is part of the FTA's *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013*, available online here. Individual detailed project descriptions are available here.

The New Starts and Small Starts capital investment program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the U.S. Government. Proposed projects, such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries, are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff recently proposed changes to this program to cut red tape in order to allow approved projects to begin construction sooner and help FTA focus more on local needs, such as economic development, community revitalization, and responding to historically underserved populations.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $15.2 Million Toward Construction of Bus Rapid Transit in El Paso, Texas

President's FY 2013 Budget Recommends $2.2 Billion Recommended for 29 Capital Transit Projects Across America that Will Create Jobs, Opportunities

2/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today recommended $15.2 million in new transit construction funding for the 12-mile Dyer Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line, which will improve access to downtown El Paso and nearby Fort Bliss, one of the nation's largest Army military bases.

The President's spending plan also recommends that three major transit projects in Texas that have received FTA grant funds in prior years should receive continued New Starts funds in FY2013: $79 million for the Dallas Northwest/Southeast Light Rail Transit (LRT); $100 million for the Houston North Corridor LRT; and $100 million for the Houston Southeast Corridor LRT.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation infrastructure projects that are built to last," said Secretary LaHood. "Throughout Texas, there is work to be done on projects like these. The budget proposal released yesterday demonstrates our commitment to putting people back to work building the infrastructure we need to improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports well in to the future. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

The Dyer Corridor, a combination of urban and suburban neighborhoods, and civilian and military residents, is also home to many low-income workers and families—all of whom stand to benefit from the addition of reliable, convenient BRT service.

"The Obama Administration continues to make transformational investments in our nation's transit infrastructure that open the door to more jobs and opportunities for millions of Americans," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "El Paso's new BRT service will greatly improve access to jobs and training for families that cannot afford to

own a car, while also offering speedier and more convenient access to the thousands of military personnel traveling daily between the U.S. Army Base at Fort Bliss, the Five Points Transfer Center, and all the attractions in downtown El Paso.

The projects are included in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2013 budget submitted to Congress yesterday, which recommends $2.2 billion in funding to initiate or advance construction of 29 significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in 15 states.

All the recommendations are part of the FTA's *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013*, available online here. Individual detailed project descriptions are available here.

The New Starts and Small Starts capital investment program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the U.S. Government. Proposed projects, such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries, are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Rogoff recently proposed changes to this program to cut red tape in order to allow approved projects to begin construction sooner and help FTA focus more on local needs, such as economic development, community revitalization, and responding to historically underserved populations.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $250 Million Toward Honolulu's High-Capacity Transit Corridor

President's FY 2013 Budget Recommends $2.2 Billion Recommended for 29 Capital Transit Projects Across America that Will Create Jobs, Opportunities

2/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today recommended $250 million to help construct a high-capacity 20-mile rail line through Honolulu that would offer a much-needed alternative to the congested roadways that make it difficult to navigate an urban corridor that's geographically constrained by the North Pacific Ocean and two mountain ranges.

The project is included in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2013 budget submitted to Congress yesterday, which recommends $2.2 billion in funding to initiate or advance construction of 29 significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in 15 states.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation infrastructure projects that are built to last," said Secretary LaHood. "In Honolulu, and throughout the nation, there is work to be done on projects like these. The budget proposal released yesterday demonstrates our commitment to putting people back to work building the infrastructure we need to improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports well in to the future. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

The President's budget recommendation would provide $250 million to serve the south shore of Oahu, Pearl Harbor, Honolulu International Airport, and downtown Honolulu. The electrified line would help relieve severe highway congestion on the H-1 freeway and offer an alternative to the local bus system, which has one of the highest per-capita ridership levels in the country.

"The Obama Administration continues to make transformational investments in our nation's transit infrastructure that open the door to more jobs and opportunities for millions of Americans," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Honolulu's new rail line will be a game-changer for a city that has long needed an efficient and sustainable

way to combat congestion, bring people into downtown from the airport, and manage growth through smart transit-oriented development projects.

The recommendation is part of the FTA's *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013*, available online here. Individual detailed project descriptions are available here.

The New Starts and Small Starts capital investment program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the U.S. Government. Proposed projects, such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries, are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff recently proposed changes to this program to cut red tape in order to allow approved projects to begin construction sooner and help FTA focus more on local needs, such as economic development, community revitalization, and responding to historically underserved populations.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Recommends $70 Million To Expand Transit Choices in Charlotte, North Carolina

President's FY 2013 Budget Recommends $2.2 Billion Recommended for 29 Capital Transit Projects Across America that Will Create Jobs, Opportunities

2/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today recommended $70 million in new transit construction funding for a 9.3-mile extension of the LYNX Blue Line light rail line that will bring additional transit service to and from downtown Charlotte in one of the nation's fastest growing metropolitan areas.

The project is included in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2013 budget submitted to Congress yesterday, which recommends $2.2 billion in funding to initiate or advance construction of 29 significant rail and bus rapid transit projects in 15 states.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation infrastructure projects that are built to last," said Secretary LaHood. "Throughout North Carolina, there is work to be done on projects like these. The budget proposal released yesterday demonstrates our commitment to putting people back to work building the infrastructure we need to improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports well in to the future. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

The President's budget recommendation provides funds for the LYNX Blue Line Extension Northeast Corridor Project under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts capital investment program. The project would relieve traffic along I-85 and US 29, connect the University of North Carolina-Charlotte campus to downtown Charlotte, and add 11 stations to the northeast beyond the line's current terminus at 7th Street.

"The Obama Administration continues to make transformational investments in our nation's transit infrastructure that open the door to more jobs and opportunities for millions of Americans," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "We are committed to continuing to support Charlotte's efforts to develop a robust, connected transit system

that provides commuters, UNCC students, and others with affordable, reliable access to downtown jobs as well as popular destinations like Center City Charlotte, the convention center, and the NASCAR Hall of Fame.&#65533;

In September, 2011, Secretary LaHood awarded nearly $25 million to the City of Charlotte for the first leg of the new Charlotte Streetcar line, which will improve access to jobs, housing, and schools, spur economic development, and build on the city&#65533;s effort to offer a range of transportation choices.

Today&#65533;s recommendation is part of the FTA&#65533;s *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013*, available online here. Individual detailed project descriptions are available here.

The New Starts and Small Starts capital investment program is one of the largest discretionary grant programs in the U.S. Government. Proposed projects, such as rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and ferries, are evaluated and rated on a number of measures at several steps in the process as they seek FTA approval for a federal funding commitment to finance project construction.

Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff recently proposed changes to this program to cut red tape in order to allow approved projects to begin construction sooner and help FTA focus more on local needs, such as economic development, community revitalization, and responding to historically underserved populations.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Kicks Off Construction of Cincinnati's New Streetcar Line, Highlights President Obama's Call for Greater Investment as Part of an "America Built to Last"

Project Will Revitalize Downtown by Attracting More Local Investments and Improving Access to Jobs, Recreation and Services

2/17/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
(202) 366-3669

CINCINNATI – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today helped kick off construction of a new 3.9-mile streetcar line that will spur Cincinnati's efforts to revitalize its downtown core by improving access to major employers, the developing riverfront, and many area attractions. The Secretary was joined at the event by Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff and Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation projects that are built to last, like Cincinnati's modern streetcar line," said Secretary LaHood. "All across America, there is work like this to be done that will improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports for years to come. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

The Cincinnati streetcar will connect Cincinnati's riverfront and downtown employers with Findlay Market and the Over-the Rhine historic district, revitalizing neighborhoods along the route, and giving people greater mobility and access to jobs and services.

"The Cincinnati streetcar line fits perfectly with the city's vision to transform the riverfront into a vibrant and desirable destination, while improving access to jobs and attractions like the Great American Ballpark and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.""In Cincinnati, and all across Ohio, people need to know they can count on the funds being available for future transit projects like this that offer an alternative to sitting in traffic or paying more at the pump."

In his FY 2013 budget proposal, President Obama indicated that half the funds saved from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan would be used to pay down the debt, and the other half would help to fund a six-year

transportation plan that would allow for nation-building here in the United States.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is contributing a total of $39.9 million to the Cincinnati streetcar project, including $10.9 million in TIGER III funds that Secretary LaHood announced in December; $25 million from FTA's Urban Circulator grant program; and $4 million from a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant. The remaining cost of the project is being covered by local funding sources.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff's Green Line Tour Highlights Economic Development Resulting from Federal Investment

2/23/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
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DALLAS – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today visited three stations along the 28-mile Green Line light rail expansion project to see firsthand the robust economic development resulting from the federal government's investments in the region.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work constructing projects that are built to last, like the Dallas Green Line," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "All across Texas, there is work like this to be done that will improve our transit systems, highways, railways and airports for years to come. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

Under the President's proposed FY 2013 budget, Dallas area residents could see more than a six percent increase in federal transit funding compared to FY 2012 estimates.

One of the significant construction projects underway, a $3 billion undertaking, involves Parkland Memorial Hospital relocating to be closer to the Green Line's Medical District/Parkland station. Parkland Memorial

Hospital is the primary hospital for the county and the training/teaching facility for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

"The economic development along the Green Line is remarkable and it's happening in other cities across the country where local officials have embraced transit choice," said Administrator Rogoff. "Better access to jobs and state-of-the-art medical facilities at Baylor University and Parkland Memorial really mean a better quality of life for Dallas residents."

According to DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit), the Green Line project is expected to provide $5.6 billion in economic impact and help create 48,000 long-term jobs in the North Texas region. To date, DART has received $700 million from the federal government, including a $78 million payment that was made ahead of schedule under a provision in the Recovery Act.

Administrator Rogoff kicked off the tour at Hatcher Station, Baylor University Medical Center Station and Southwest Medical District/Parkland Station with DART President/Executive Director Gary Thomas. Others on the tour included community leader Willie Mae Coleman, Ruben Esquivel of Southwestern Medical District, Tim Glass and Sue Hounsel representing the City of Dallas Economic Development.

###

FTA Deputy Administrator McMillan Attends Grand Opening of Sustainable Paratransit Facility in Toledo; Highlights President's Call for Investment in an America Built to Last

Solar-powered facility transforms former brownfield site while meeting growing demand for local bus service

2/24/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064

TOLEDO, Ohio – Deputy Transit Administrator Therese McMillan today joined Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Toledo transit officials for the grand opening of a new 80,000 square-foot energy-efficient maintenance facility for the Toledo Area Paratransit Service (TARPS), which provides transit bus and van service to older Americans, persons with disabilities, and others who need assistance getting around.

"President Obama's proposed budget for 2013 promotes American energy and puts people back to work rebuilding America's infrastructure," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Toledo's new sustainable bus maintenance facility showcases our ability to create and save green jobs here at home while investing in an America that's built to last."

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funded 75 percent of the $9.6 million TARPS maintenance facility, which was needed to meet the growing demand for service, which rose 23 percent last year over 2011. FTA also provided $3.4 million in federal funds last year to replace 38 of 59 aging paratransit vehicles in the TARPS fleet.

"Toledo's growing population of seniors, people with disabilities and families without cars, depend on access to clean, reliable transit to get to work, school, medical appointments, or the mall," McMillan said. "In Toledo, and all across Ohio, people need to know they can count on the funds being available for future transit projects like this that improve mobility while helping us create more sustainable communities."

The building also incorporates solar panels, a geothermal heating and cooling system, skylights, and reflective roofing.

The new facility, which created approximately 20 construction-related jobs and retained 60 other jobs, was built on a former industrial brownfield site and includes a biodiesel fueling station and enough space to efficiently

service, wash, fuel, and store more than 100 buses under one roof. The facility's central office space will be home to approximately 100 TARPS employees.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff Joins Florida Officials To Highlight President's Budget Proposal for Greater Investment as Part of an "America Built to Last"

President's Budget Includes Increased Funding for the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Region To Improve Transit Options, Access to Jobs, Services

2/24/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff joined Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Congressman Alcee Hastings at the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Tri-Rail Station at Dania Beach today to highlight the President's FY2013 budget proposal that calls for greater investment in transit infrastructure as part of an America built to last.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation projects that are built to last," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "All across America, there is work to be done that will improve our transit systems, highways, railways, airports and ports for years to come. At this make-or-break moment for the middle class, we can afford to do no less."

"President Obama's commitment to boost transportation funding is critical to building a modern transportation network that creates jobs, spurs development and reduces our nation's costly dependence on foreign oil," said Administrator Rogoff. "More and more Americans are looking for greater choices in transportation today, and it's important we provide the funding to ensure transit remains one of those choices."

Administrator Rogoff, in town for a briefing by local officials on transit needs in the area, spoke about the importance of securing a sustainable, long-term source of funding for such projects nationwide. His comments came in the wake of recent efforts by the U.S. House of Representatives to eliminate dedicated funding for transit, which has been in place for thirty years.

Under the President's proposed FY2013 budget, residents in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties could potentially see an increase of nearly $10 million in federal funding—a nearly seven-percent boost

compared to estimated funding in 2012 to maintain and improve transit services.

The Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Station at Dania Beach is one of 18 stations in the 71-mile Tri-Rail commuter rail system, which runs from Miami through Ft. Lauderdale to West Palm Beach seven days a week. On weekdays, 14,500 commuters use Tri-Rail to get to work, major airports, South Florida attractions and special events.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $15 Million to Enhance Transit Options on Tribal Lands for an America Built to Last

3/9/2012
Contact: Ketrina Nelson
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WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the availability of approximately $15 million in competitive funding to help American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments strengthen public transportation options that improve access to jobs, education, medical services and other critical needs in underserved rural areas.

"President Obama has charged us with building an economy that works for everyone, and for thousands of families living on America's tribal lands, public transportation is critical to accessing economic opportunity," said Secretary LaHood. "We're committed to working with tribal governments to provide safe and reliable transit in their communities."

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Tribal Transit Program provides discretionary grants to projects eligible to receive planning, capital and operating assistance for tribal public transit services. Some grants will be used to plan or launch new bus, van and commuter service in rural communities that have never been served by public transit before.

"Access to reliable, affordable transit is truly a lifeline in rural tribal and Alaskan Native communities that have traditionally had few transportation choices to get to work, school and other destinations," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "With gas prices rising, it's more important than ever to have viable transit options."

Under the Tribal Transit Program, eligible recipients include federally-recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities, as identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior.

Last year, the FTA reviewed 116 project applications for the Tribal Transit Program, representing more than $41.6 million in funding requests from tribal transit providers across the country.

The notice of funding availability for the FY2012 Tribal Transit Program is published in today's Federal Register (PDF). Proposals must be submitted by May 10, 2012.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $900 Million to Extend San Francisco's BART Rail Line into Silicon Valley

3/12/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064

SAN JOSE, Calif. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced an agreement to provide $900 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to help extend the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) rail system into Santa Clara County, which is home to many fast-growing Silicon Valley companies.

FTA Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan was on hand to announce the agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. According to BART, the project will create more than 1,600 construction-related jobs and help to relieve highway congestion in the nation's major high-tech corridor.

"President Obama called on us to rebuild America by putting people back to work on transportation projects that are built to last, like the BART system," said Secretary LaHood. "BART will one day connect Bay Area residents with Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and the jobs they create, while reducing congestion on area highways for everyone. All across America, we have critical transportation work that needs to be done and Americans who are ready to do the work."

The Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension Project, expected to break ground in April, will extend BART by 10 miles and involve the construction of two new stations, in Milpitas and Berryessa, and the procurement of 40 new passenger rail cars. This significant New Starts investment continues the planned 16-mile BART Silicon Valley extension, bringing transit service to downtown San Jose and Santa Clara County.

"The residents and entrepreneurs of South Bay understand that transit is a way to relieve congestion between Alameda and Santa Clara counties and provide commuters with a real alternative to ever-erratic gas prices," said FTA Deputy Administrator McMillan. "This project is also spurring millions of dollars" worth of new construction for housing, office space, and hotels; all located just minutes away from the BART line extension."

Once completed, the new rail segment will be part of a 119-mile BART network connecting Santa Clara County with San Mateo, San Francisco, Contra Costa and Alameda counties. FTA is committed to providing funds comprising 38.6 percent of the $2.3 billion project. The balance is financed with $1.4 billion in funds from the State of California Traffic Congestion Relief Program and local sales taxes approved by Santa Clara voters in 2000 and 2008.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $25 Million to Advance Local Transit Options for an America Built to Last

3/12/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064

WASHINGTON—U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the availability of approximately $25 million in competitive funding grants to help communities take their first steps in planning future transit options to better connect people to where they live, work and play.

"President Obama challenged us to build an economy that works for everyone, and the tremendous demand for more transit service across America shows how much communities want alternative ways to get to work, school, medical appointments and elsewhere," said Secretary LaHood. "We have critical transportation work that needs to be done and Americans who are ready to do the work."

The funds are available through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Alternatives Analysis grant program, which is the first key step that local decision makers must take as they pursue federal funds for key transit construction projects. The analysis begins with a solid understanding of the local transportation problems at hand, followed by a period of study that engages the public, local officials, and potential funding partners in evaluating the costs and benefits of various transit solutions—and ways to pay for them. The Alternatives Analysis process helps to ensure that communities think through the best and most feasible choices available to them, before committing local resources and competing for federal funds from the FTA.

"To achieve the President's vision of an America that's built to last, we'll continue to support local decision making about the best ways to bring more transit to communities nationwide," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "With gas prices rising, the need for transit alternatives is greater than ever."

Last year, FTA awarded $25.4 million for 34 Alternatives Analysis studies throughout the U.S. The agency reviewed 71 applications from 29 states seeking a total of $60.8 million. Among the transit corridors now under consideration that build on last year's grants are a 24-mile north-south corridor along Chicago's lakefront, the five-mile South Central Corridor in

Phoenix, and a 22-mile corridor between the City of Charleston and Town of Summerville in South Carolina.

A notice of funding availability for the Alternatives Analysis grant program appears in today's Federal Register (PDF).

###

New Department of Transportation Report on Highway and Transit Conditions Underscores Need for Transportation Investment

3/16/2012
Contact: Nancy Singer
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WASHINGTON - U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that a new report on the state of America's transportation infrastructure, *2010 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges and Transit: Conditions and Performance*, points to a sizeable gap between current spending and projected levels of investment needed to maintain the nation's highway and transit systems.

"President Obama is committed to building the transportation infrastructure we need for tomorrow by putting people to work today, "said Secretary LaHood. "This report shows how important it is important to get started now rebuilding America's roads, bridges and transit systems."

The Department of Transportation's *Conditions and Performance* report projects that $101 billion, plus increases for inflation, would be needed annually over the next 20 years from all levels of government - local, state and federal - to keep the highway system in its current state. It also identifies significant opportunities for investments to improve the current state of highways and bridges that could total up to $170 billion a year. The report shows that in 2008, all levels of government spent a combined total of $91.1 billion on highway capital improvements, a 48.4 percent increase over 2000.

The Obama Administration's FY 2013 budget request calls for $305 billion for highway programs over six years, which reflects a 34 percent increase for roads and bridges over the previous authorization to address the outstanding need for resources.

"We see significant improvements with every dollar," Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez said. "The President called on us to create an America built to last, and while we have a long way to go to upgrade our nation's highways and bridges, we owe it to future generations to get to work and make it happen."

The *Conditions and Performance* report projects that between $20.8 billion and $24.5 billion will be needed annually over the next 20 years to attain a state of good repair for the nation's transit systems and to accommodate

expected transit ridership growth. In contrast, all levels of government combined spent only $16.1 billion on transit capital improvements in 2008. The Obama Administration budget request includes $108 billion over the six years for transit options, a 105 percent increase over the previous authorization levels.

"Today, more and more Americans are looking for greater choices in transportation," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "With gas prices on the rise, we need to heed President Obama's call to invest in America's infrastructure, in order to ensure that transit remains a reliable and desirable choice."

Conditions and Performance is a biennial report to Congress that provides information on the physical and operating characteristics of the highway, bridge and transit components of the nation's surface transportation system.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Proposes to Streamline Environmental Reviews for Transit Projects, Dramatically Cutting Red Tape and Improving Transparency without Short-Changing the Environment

First Major Revisions to Environmental Review Process Proposed in Over 20 Years Will Put Americans to Work More Quickly, Revitalize Communities

3/16/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

WASHINGTON – Responding to President Obama's call for federal agencies to speed infrastructure development through more efficient environmental reviews, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today announced they are proposing common-sense changes that would significantly cut red tape for certain transit projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and dramatically speed some projects towards completion.

"The President has asked us to find new ways to make our government work smarter on behalf of the American people by cutting waste and inefficiency wherever we find it," said Secretary LaHood. "The changes we're proposing will allow us to still carefully assess the impact of transit development on the environment, while reducing the time and energy needed to green-light good projects that clearly do not have a significant impact on the environment."

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) anticipates that for certain transit projects, the streamlined NEPA review process would be five times faster, making the NEPA process the most efficient it has been in 20 years. The time-savings would be due, in part, to allowing certain types of transit projects that clearly do not have a significant impact on the local environment—such as projects to be built within an existing right-of-way where transit or other transportation already exists—to potentially undergo a less intensive NEPA evaluation, while still providing for a more thorough review of projects that do have the potential for significant environmental impacts. For qualified projects, less documentation would need to be submitted, and project sponsors and state and regional transportation authorities would be encouraged to take environmental impacts into consideration sooner, as part of the planning process.

"This new NEPA process would help provide transportation solutions to communities more quickly by potentially shaving more than a year off of the environmental review process for some projects," said Rogoff. "The bottom line is that project sponsors would be able to spend less time and effort guiding projects through a maze of paperwork and more time building projects that will provide a real alternative to ever-increasing fuel costs."

The proposed changes would boost transparency of the NEPA process by encouraging the posting of all environmental impact statements and environmental records of decision on a grant applicant's project website—and maintaining that information until a project is constructed and operating.

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on "Environmental Impact and Related Procedures" appeared in yesterday's *Federal Register*. A 60-day public comment period follows.

This is the second effort to cut red tape undertaken by the FTA this year. In January, reflecting an April 2011 Executive Order — *Streamlining Service Delivery and Improving Customer Service*, by President Obama to streamline service delivery and improve customer service, the FTA announced a proposed rulemaking to streamline the way major transit projects compete for federal funds.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $13.1 Million To Advance the Adoption of Clean, Green Energy for Transit

4/2/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced $13.1 million in federal funding for 11 innovative research and demonstration projects under FTA's National Fuel Cell Bus Program. The program advances hydrogen fuel cell power for transit buses and reflects the Obama Administration's commitment to address our nation's energy challenges, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and promote cleaner air.

"President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy includes adopting alternative fuels that let transit agencies bypass the gas pump altogether and reduce our carbon footprint," said Secretary LaHood. "This investment moves us closer to achieving the President's goal of reducing oil imports by a third in a little over a decade."

The funds are shared by Calstart in Pasadena, Calif.; the Center for Transportation and the Environment in Atlanta, Ga.; and the Northeast Advanced Vehicle Consortium in Boston, Mass. All three will engage in work to develop various fuel cell components, test American-made buses under real-world conditions powered by fuel cells, and conduct educational outreach.

With gas prices on the rise, we know that the availability of reliable transit as a transportation choice is a significant part of relieving the pain at the pump for millions of riders each day, said and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. And the Department is taking it a step further by investing in a new generation of clean-fuel technology to make transit an even more significant part of our nations overall approach to a secure energy future.

Research funding announced today may result in getting fuel cell buses into commercial service quicker, which would have positive environmental and energy-saving impacts. According to the National Renewable Energy Lab and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), every fuel cell-powered bus put into service in the U.S. could reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere by 100 tons annually and eliminate the need for 9,000 gallons of fuel every year over the life of the vehicle. For buses currently running on diesel fuel, that translates into a savings of more than $37,000 per year, per vehicle.

FTA s National Fuel Cell Bus program was created in 2005 to develop affordable hydrogen fuel cell buses for the nations public transit agencies, and to increase public acceptance of fuel cell-powered vehicles. The 11 projects were selected from among 26 proposals seeking $52 million in federal funds. Details about the projects can be foundhere.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $38 Million for Rapid Bus Service that will Increase Transportation Choices in Austin

4/10/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
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AUSTIN, Texas – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced an agreement to provide $38 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to build a bus rapid transit system in Austin, bringing additional transportation choices to one of the most congested mid-size cities in the country. The new bus system will make it easier for residents to get to jobs, schools and cultural centers in downtown Austin.

"President Obama is advocating an all-of-the-above energy strategy for the United States, which includes giving people more transportation choices." The MetroRapid bus service will let people save on gas and reduce their carbon footprint by leaving cars at home if they choose," said Secretary LaHood. "This investment moves us closer to achieving our goal of reducing oil imports by a third in a little over a decade."

The new MetroRapid bus service includes construction of 40 new bus stations and the purchase of 40 clean diesel buses that will operate along a 37.5 mile route on streets that run parallel to the region's main highways, I-35 and Loop-1. The service will make it easier for riders to access downtown Austin's central business district, the State Capitol and the

University of Texas at Austin, while saving energy and reducing carbon emissions. More than 20,000 daily riders are expected to use the service when it begins in 2014.

The agreement, which covers about 80 percent of the $47 million project, clears the way for the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro) to begin construction on the new bus rapid transit system. "According to MetroRapid, the project is expected to create more than 100 construction-related jobs." FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, joined by Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell and Capital Metro officials, signed the project construction grant agreement during a ceremony today in downtown Austin.

"With gas prices high and traffic congestion choking Austin's roadways, President Obama's commitment to boost transportation funding is critical to building a modern transportation network that creates jobs, spurs development and promotes the use of clean energy," said Administrator Rogoff. "This project will help people breathe easier, spend less time sitting in traffic on I-35 and Loop-1 and keep more of their hard-earned money."

Rogoff also announced an additional $3 million grant from FTA's State of Good Repair Program that Capital Metro will use toward the replacement of seven worn-out buses in its regular fleet.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Tours BART's Hayward Maintenance Yard to Highlight Value of Maintaining Nation's Aging Transit Systems

4/11/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

HAYWARD, Calif. • Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today got a first-hand look at what it takes to maintain and repair hundreds of rail cars that are the backbone of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) rail system.• The BART system carries more than 350,000 passengers a day on rail cars that are, on average, nearly 35 years old, making it one of the oldest fleets in the nation. The Hayward maintenance yard, one of BART's original repair facilities, is teeming with workers who help ensure the aging equipment is safe and reliable.
•
•With transit ridership at its highest level in five years, the Obama Administration understands the value and importance of continuing to invest in commuter and light rail systems, buses, streetcars and other public transit options,• said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. •But it's equally important to preserve and maintain the transit infrastructure we've already built, to keep it safe and dependable for millions who take transit today and in the future.•
•
One of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) top priorities is to balance investments in new transit systems with the need to reinvest in

legacy systems. Nationwide, there is an estimated $78 billion backlog in critical rail transit repair needs in cities such as New York, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Chicago, as well as smaller towns and suburbs nationwide. The San Francisco Bay Area alone faces a $4 billion to $6 billion backlog on repairs and upgrades needed now. FTA has committed more than $2.1 billion in discretionary funds over three years for more than 300 projects to replace or rehabilitate our aging transit infrastructure.

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Attends Groundbreaking of $196.6 Million Tucson Streetcar Project

Streetcar will Enhance Access to Major Employers and Regional Attractions

4/12/2012
Contact: Justin Nisly
202-366-4570

TUCSON, Ariz. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today participated in the groundbreaking of a new 3.9-mile modern streetcar line project that will directly connect thousands of commuters with Tucson's major downtown employers, health care facilities, the University of Arizona and regional attractions.

"Tucson is joining a growing list of American cities–from Portland, Oregon, to Charlotte, North Carolina–where the modern streetcar is spurring economic development, revitalizing downtown neighborhoods, and attracting a new generation of riders," said Secretary LaHood. "The Obama Administration is committed to investing in strong transportation choices like these as part of an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy to reduce our dependence on oil, relieve congestion and improve air quality."

The Tucson streetcar line will serve a population of more than 85,000 people who live and work within walking distance of 17 planned stops. The service also fills a gap by offering direct, high-capacity transit connections between downtown Tucson, the University of Arizona, the Arizona Health Sciences Center and points in between. Travel times between the University District and downtown are expected to improve significantly over current bus service, once the streetcar line is operational.

The streetcar project is expected to create an estimated 1,200 construction-related jobs. Oregon Iron Works Inc./United Streetcar of Portland, Ore., a

U.S. manufacturer of modern streetcar vehicles, has been awarded the contract to build the cars.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has committed $78.7 million to the $196.6 million project thus far, including $63 million in TIGER funds awarded in 2010 and $15.7 million from other Transportation Department funding sources.

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U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Gives Transit Agencies in 175 Cities Greater Flexibility in Managing Rising Fuel Prices

4/12/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
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WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that selected transit agencies in cash-strapped municipalities from coast to coast and Puerto Rico may now use certain Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds to cover the cost of the gas, diesel, and electric power that keeps buses, light rail, streetcars, and other transit vehicles up and running.

The recipients benefiting from this spending flexibility appeared in today's Federal Register (PDF). The provision, part of Congress's FY2012 appropriations legislation, allows transit operators in the most populated urban areas to use a portion of their allocated FY2012 FTA funds specifically for this purpose. Thanks to this added flexibility, smaller cities across the nation will be better equipped to handle increased ridership and higher operating costs that typically result from rising oil prices. With a total of up to $100 million in funding nationwide, the program will not add to the deficit or increase government expenditures.

"As our economy continues to recover, we must ensure that Americans have reliable transportation choices that provide access to jobs and other vital services," said Secretary LaHood. "Rising fuel prices impact the nation's transit providers, too, and this measure delivers critical relief that will ensure that buses, light rail, and other vehicles are on the road at a time when their service is needed most."

The flexible funding provision means that a large city like Houston, for example, where transit capacity is expanding rapidly, may apply more than $2 million in funds toward fuel and utility costs; Las Vegas may use more than $680,000; and Atlanta may use more than $6 million. The allocations are made in proportion to the funding levels these areas typically receive on an annual basis from FTA.

Under the provision, smaller cities can make their federal dollars go further as they do not need to match federal funds dollar-for-dollar, as was required in the past. For example, Panama City, Florida, may use nearly $140,000 to pay for fuel; Pascagoula, Mississippi may use $25,000; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, may use more than $190,000.

�This flexibility brings short-term relief to the nation�s cash-strapped transit agencies and keep buses and trains running for the riders who depend on them,� said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. �We continue to call on Congress to pass a bipartisan transportation bill that includes timely and targeted operating assistance during tough economic times as proposed in the President�s budget.�

President Obama�s proposed budget for FY2013 would bring additional relief by allowing transit agencies in large urban areas to qualify for temporary and targeted operating assistance over a three-year period, if the economy declines. This would, for the first time, trigger the ability to tap federal funds normally used for capital costs to be used instead to cover the cost of fuel and other operating expenses. The provision would help transit agencies avoid service cutbacks and layoffs during tough economic times.

More than 175 urbanized areas in 40 states and Puerto Rico responded to FTA�s announcement published in the *Federal Register* on Jan. 11, 2012, requesting designated recipients to submit maximum eligible expenses for reimbursement. The total funding amount requested was $237.1 million. FTA has allocated a portion of the $100 million to every urbanized area that responded to the announcement.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff Joins San Jose Officials to Break Ground on BART Rail Extension to Silicon Valley

4/12/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today attended the groundbreaking of a 10-mile extension of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) rail system out to Silicon Valley that will provide a new choice for residents who commute to the high-tech corridor each day.

"President Obama is advocating an all-of-the-above energy strategy for the United States, which includes giving people more transportation choices. With this addition to BART, even more people will be able to save on gas and reduce their carbon footprint by leaving cars at home if they choose," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "This investment moves us closer to achieving our goal of reducing oil imports by a third in a little over a decade."

The U.S. Department of Transportation last month approved $900 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds for the project, leveraging a $1.4 billion commitment by the State of California and by voters who twice approved using local sales taxes to expand transit choices in Santa Clara County.

The Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension Project involves the construction of two new stations, in Milpitas and Berryessa, and the purchase of 40 new passenger rail cars. This significant New Starts investment continues the planned 16-mile BART Silicon Valley extension, bringing transit service to downtown San Jose and Santa Clara County. According to BART, the project will create more than 2,500 construction-related jobs and help to relieve highway congestion in the nation's major high-tech corridor.

"Today we break ground on a project that will provide residents with a reliable and efficient connection to jobs in Silicon Valley, who would otherwise be forced to continue to endure the punishing congestion throughout the Bay Area," Administrator Rogoff said. "Investing in transit is about putting people back to work on projects like these that will allow Americans to keep more of their hard-earned instead of suffering pain at the pump." Also attending the groundbreaking were Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Congressman Michael Honda, San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, and Former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta.

Once completed, the new rail segment will be part of a 119-mile BART network connecting Santa Clara County with San Mateo, San Francisco, Contra Costa and Alameda counties. FTA funds comprise 38.6 percent of the $2.3 billion project. The balance is financed with $1.4 billion in funds from the State of California Traffic Congestion Relief Program and local sales taxes approved by Santa Clara voters in 2000 and 2008.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Joins Colorado Officials To Break Ground on Nation's First Rural Rapid Bus Service

4/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

CARBONDALE, Colo. • Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff joined Colorado officials and hundreds of local residents today to kick off construction of the nation's first bus rapid transit system serving rural America. The new bus service will enable thousands of workers from rural Colorado to save hundreds of dollars on gas each month and drastically reduce the number of hours they spend driving. The buses will run on home-grown clean fuel that will reduce air pollution and help preserve the natural beauty of the rural Western Rocky Mountains.

"President Obama is advocating an all-of-the-above energy strategy for the United States, which includes building projects like the Roaring Fork Valley's rapid bus service," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "This investment in Colorado's transportation infrastructure is also an investment in a more secure energy future for the United States, so we can reduce our dependence on oil • and reduce the emissions polluting our air."

The new bus rapid transit, or BRT, will operate along a 40-mile corridor between Aspen and Glenwood Springs, serving outlying communities where housing is more affordable than in the region's resort towns, where most

major employers are based. The BRT line's 18 new buses will run on compressed natural gas produced in Colorado.

"This is going to make a huge difference in the quality of life for thousands of middle-class families who need affordable transportation choices that work for them," Administrator Rogoff said. "For many riders, the benefits of this investment are significant, with commute times cut in half and families saving roughly $500 a month on gas—enough to feed a family of four for a month."

The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority will operate the BRT service, called VelociRFTA, which will connect workers who live in Roaring Fork Valley to local area resorts where the jobs are, roughly 40 miles away. The new service includes construction of nine bus stations and five park-and-ride facilities, priority travel lanes that keep buses moving through downtown traffic lights, electronic signs at stations to let riders know when the next bus will arrive, onboard Wi-Fi service and enclosed bus shelters to protect passengers from rain and snow.

FTA has committed nearly $25 million, approximately 54 percent of the total $46.1 million project cost, through its Small Starts capital program in fiscal years 2010 and 2011. The remaining cost is being covered by local funding sources.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates 42nd Earth Day by Bringing Cleaner, Greener Transportation Choices to America

4/19/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON—The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated Earth Day by unveiling a new environmental benefits website highlighting the Obama Administration's strong commitment to investing in affordable, innovative and sustainable public transit alternatives that reduce the nation's carbon footprint and help secure an independent energy future.

"Earth Day reminds us all that we owe it to future generations to safeguard our planet and use its resources wisely, so that we may continue to grow our economy and create good jobs in an environmentally responsible way," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy will help us reduce our dependence on oil and tap America's entrepreneurial spirit to create innovative, alternative sources of energy to keep us moving."

Among its features, FTA's new website shows how transit reduces emissions and provides a calculator that tells visitors how much carbon dioxide they would save by riding transit. It showcases investments such as state-of-the-art clean-fuel technologies and highlights progress providing access to affordable housing near transit and improving transportation in national parks. Visitors to the site can pick up tips for reducing their carbon

footprint, review the latest research linking transit and personal health, and click on a state to see a selection of new and improved transit services available.

As a leader in green transportation, FTA has invested $366 million over the last three years to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
- Put new, clean fuel transit vehicles on the street,
- Spur the transit industry to reduce costs and increase efficiencies through smart energy policies, and
- Create green jobs for the 21st century.

"As transit ridership reaches record-high levels, we need to find new ways to put clean and green buses, trains, and streetcars into service and maintain what we already have," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "The Obama Administration supports a made-in-America approach to bringing better, sustainable transportation choices to our communities, so people can keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets instead of spending it at the pump."

FTA also participated today in the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Earth Day Fair held at the department's Washington, D.C., headquarters. The fair features booths and activities to showcase green transportation options and projects, including DOT's green roof.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Attends Grand Opening of Wickford Junction Rail Station

Providing Efficient, Affordable Access to Jobs and Attractions between Providence and Boston, with Additional Service to T.F. Green Airport

4/23/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today spoke at the grand opening of the Wickford Junction commuter rail station and launch of a commuter line service to T.F. Green Airport. Secretary LaHood was joined at the event by U.S. Senator Jack Reed, Governor Lincoln Chafee and local officials.

"President Obama is advocating an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes bringing more sustainable public transportation choices to urban corridors like this one in Southern Rhode Island," said Secretary LaHood. "Extending this commuter rail service will help reduce area congestion while opening the door to jobs and economic opportunity for South County's shoreline communities."

The station received $59 million in federal funds, including $25 million from the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts Capital Program and more than $4 million from the Recovery Act. It will be served by 10 north- and south-bound trains on weekdays and is expected to carry as many as 1,500 riders a day. Commuters will have access to an on-site garage with bike racks and 10 charging stations for electric and hybrid electric vehicles.

The new commuter rail service extends the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) existing commuter rail service 20 miles to the state's southeastern communities, including North Kingston, Wickford, and Warwick. Traveling by rail will take travelers from Wickford Junction to Providence in about 35 minutes and to Boston in less than two hours. Driving these routes at peak travel times often takes considerably longer. The project is part of the South County Commuter Rail Project, a 20-mile rail extension along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor from Providence to the South County Region.

"Adding commuter rail to the mix of transportation options provides a real choice for Rhode Island commuters and is a huge win for transit riders and drivers alike," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, who

attended the station groundbreaking in 2010. "For residents in Warwick, Wickford, and Kingstown, this project will reduce congestion on I-94 and Route 4 and allow commuters to spend far less money at the gas pump."

###

FTA Deputy Administrator Joins Maine Officials for Opening of Acadia National Park Gateway Center Transportation and Maintenance Facility

5/4/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

TRENTON, Maine – Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan today joined Congressman Michael Michaud and Maine transportation officials for the grand opening of the Acadia Gateway Center transportation and maintenance facility. This transit project will make it easy for visitors to park their cars and take a free shuttle bus service to destinations throughout Acadia National Park, one of the nation's most popular parks that attracts more than two million visitors every year.

"Our nation's scenic parklands and protected areas are national treasures," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "It's vitally important to preserve and protect these lands for today's visitors as well as future generations by investing in safe, accessible and environmentally sustainable transportation."

The new facility will provide a place for visitors to Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor and Mount Desert Island to park their cars and ride the free Island Explorer shuttle bus service to destinations around the park and island. Twenty-nine clean, propane-powered buses and four gasoline-powered vans will be maintained at the facility, providing a much-needed alternative to

driving while helping to reduce traffic congestion, especially during peak tourist season when visitors flock to the park.

"By taking cars off the road and reducing harmful emissions and pollutants in one of our nation's most pristine settings, we're helping visitors from around the world enjoy Acadia National Park the way it was meant to be enjoyed," said Deputy Administrator McMillan.

The Federal Transit Administration provided $11.6 million for the $14.7 million project. The remainder was provided through state bonds. Additional support for the free Island Explorer shuttle bus service was provided by the National Parks Service, the Town of Trenton, Friends of Acadia and L.L. Bean.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff Celebrates New Transit Facilities in Massachusetts

New facilities offer transportation options, support President Obama's "Blueprint" for a Secure Energy Future

5/4/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

GREENFIELD, Mass. – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff visited two new federally-funded transit projects in Massachusetts today that will improve access to transit and support President Obama's blueprint for a secure energy future.

Administrator Rogoff attended the dedication of the state-of-the-art, energy-efficient John W. Olver Intermodal Center in Greenfield that will serve as a central hub for transportation in the heart of this northwest community's urban renewal zone. Rogoff was joined by retiring Congressman John Olver, Governor Deval Patrick, and Congressman Jim McGovern.

"President Obama is committed to investing in transportation projects like the Olver Intermodal Center as part of an all-of-the-above energy strategy that reduces our dependence on oil, relieves congestion and improves air quality," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "We need more good projects like this that create good green jobs for American workers and help us secure our energy future."

The spacious Olver Center replaces the old Franklin County transit hub, where passengers were forced to wait for buses on two benches in crowded conditions outside Greenfield City Hall.

In addition, as a result of the Olver Center, Greenfield residents will soon have access to Amtrak's Vermonter passenger rail service. The Olver Center will serve as a stop on the Vermonter line, which will undergo extensive improvements between Springfield and East Northfield, Mass., beginning this summer. The Olver Center is expected to be energy-neutral – saving as much energy as it uses – using, for example, solar power to light and heat the building.

"With transit ridership at near-record levels across the country, it's essential that we continue to invest in modern, sustainable transit facilities that make it easier for hard-working families in small cities like Greenfield to get to work, to school, to medical appointments and other destinations," Rogoff said. "We continue to call on Congress to pass a long-term transportation bill that provides reliable funding for public transportation so more Americans can choose to spend less at the gas pump."

The Olver Center was funded with $15.1 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), including a $12.8 million boost from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The restored Amtrak service received Recovery Act funds totaling $72.8 million from the Federal Railroad Administration.

Administrator Rogoff and the two congressmen later joined Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella and local officials to break ground on a new 350-space parking garage at the North Leominster Commuter Rail Station. The garage is one of several improvement projects along Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line. The FTA is providing $6 million for the project, which will make it easier for area commuters to use local bus service and take the Fitchburg rail line to work in the downtown Boston area.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announcing Launch of Month-Long National Dialogue to Improve Transportation for Veterans, Military Families

5/7/2012
Contact: Dave Longo
(202) 366-0608

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the launch of a groundbreaking national online dialogue to highlight the local transportation needs, challenges and opportunities facing the nation's veterans, wounded warriors, and military service members and their families.

The web-based dialogue invites military families, veterans and organizations that support them to engage in a lively discussion on overcoming barriers, forming strategic partnerships, and improving communications to ultimately improve access to transportation. On-line registration begins today at http://veteransdialogue.ideascale.com.

"President Obama understands that we must do more than express our sincere appreciation to the men and women who bravely protect and defend the United States of America," said Secretary LaHood. "We are committed to helping these individuals and their families here at home find meaningful work, a good education and quality medical care—none of which is possible without access to reliable, affordable transportation choices."

The dialogue is managed and operated by Easter Seals Project ACTION through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration, using funds from the U.S. Department of Labor.

"This national conversation will, for the first time, enable veterans and service members to engage in a frank and creative exchange about their transportation needs with a wide range of organizations that can ultimately deliver solutions," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, whose agency played a lead role in developing the dialogue and administering grants for veterans through the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative. "This effort complements our ongoing investments that help America's service veterans and their families to make the connections they need to get to work or job training, stay in school and keep more money in their pockets instead of paying it at the pump."

The online dialogue, entitled "Strengthening Transportation Choices So We Can Serve Those Who Have Served Their Country," runs from May 7 to June 8. Stakeholders with a legitimate interest in improving conditions for veterans and service members may participate, including:

- Veterans, service members, and their families;
- Military and veteran service organizations;
- Transportation providers (public and private);
- Human service networks providers;
- State, city, and county officials delivering services and outreach to veterans;
- County offices of Veterans Affairs;
- Veterans Administration hospitals;
- Employers
- College and universities

A public report will be issued after the dialogue has closed, capturing a range of comments and the most popular ideas generated. The findings may be used to inform future federal, state and local decisions about effective transportation policies and coalition-building.

The outreach effort also reflects President Obama's Open Government initiative, which encourages government agencies to use technology to engage citizens on various topics with the ability to provide ideas or vote and comment on other people's ideas.

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative announced more than $34 million in grants in 2011 for one-call, one-click transportation resources centers around the country serving veterans, service members, and their families to improve access to local and regional

transportation choices. The Department is currently reviewing applications for up to an additional $30 million made available for the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative for 2012 through the Bus and Bus Facilities program as well as the FTA Research program.

Both the grant program and the national dialogue were developed cooperatively through the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility, a federal inter-agency partnership established in 2004 and currently chaired by Secretary LaHood. In addition to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the veterans' initiatives are supported by the departments of Labor, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Human Services (all Coordinating Council members), with additional support from the Department of Defense and leading veteran and military service organizations around the country.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Attends Groundbreaking of Sugar House Streetcar Project

Project Supports President's "All-of-the-Above" Energy Strategy; Spurs Job Creation and Economic Development

5/9/2012
Contact: Justin Nisly
202-366-4570

SALT LAKE CITY – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today joined local officials to break ground on a two-mile streetcar line that will connect South Salt Lake City to the city's Sugar House Business District, providing new and better transportation choices and economic revitalization to an area where growth had been stalled by the recession.

"When President Obama talks about an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy, he is talking about projects like the Sugar House Streetcar that provide reliable transportation and help Americans deal with changing gas and oil prices," said Secretary LaHood. "Smart transportation investments like this give people relief from high prices at the pump and serve as engines for job creation and economic development."

In addition to making one of Salt Lake City's most historic neighborhoods more walkable, the Sugar House Streetcar will also provide residents of South Salt Lake City with a direct connection to the North-South TRAX line at the Central Pointe Station, allowing them access to 130 miles of passenger rail across the Wasatch Front.

According to the Utah Transit Authority, the Sugar House Streetcar project is expected to create an estimated 700 construction-related jobs in the near term, and add more than 7,500 new permanent jobs to the local economy by 2030. The project is also expected to generate over $1 billion in new business development along the line. The $37.2 million construction cost is being funded by a $26 million federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) II grant and $11.2 million in local funds provided by the cities of Salt Lake City and South Salt Lake City and the Utah Transit Authority.

"This is a smart investment that will make a real difference in the lives of Salt Lake City area residents," Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff said. "Over the next twenty years, this federal investment in the Sugar House Streetcar project is anticipated to save more than one million gallons

of fuel and reduce carbon emissions by 26,000 tons. That's a win-win situation for area residents and for our energy future.

The streetcar is expected to open in late 2013.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Joins Nevada Officials for Opening of Sahara Express Bus Rapid Transit Service in Las Vegas

5/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

LAS VEGAS • Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff joined Nevada officials today in celebrating the opening of the Sahara Express Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line. The new line will give residents and tourists a convenient and affordable option for commuting to work and traveling to and from downtown Las Vegas.

•President Obama•s blueprint for an America built to last means investing in transportation systems that will keep people and goods moving,• said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. •This project will help people get to work and help Las Vegas develop a modern, energy-efficient transit system that will reduce congestion and support the region•s economic comeback for years to come.•

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada received $34.4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act•s competitive • Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery • TIGER grant program toward the $45.2 million project.

�The Sahara BRT Express line offers a one-seat ride, no need to transfer, to thousands of workers traveling from their homes in the Valley to jobs downtown and along the Strip,� said Administrator Rogoff. �It�s a reliable and desirable way to travel � and helps people keep more of their hard-earned paychecks in their wallets instead of paying it at the pump.�

The transit line includes dedicated bus lanes along Sahara Avenue and traffic signal improvements that will help speed travel times for riders along the 12-mile corridor. The system features solar-powered lighting in passenger shelters, ticket vending machines, and elevated station platforms that make boarding easy. The project is part of a comprehensive transit network connecting various BRT routes with double-decker buses and the Las Vegas Monorail.

Today�s announcement is just one way the Department of Transportation is celebrating National Transportation Week (May 14th - 20th). Over the next seven days, the Department is highlighting its commitment to ensuring the safety of America�s transportation systems this week and all 52 weeks of the year. Investment in our nation�s infrastructure is critical for maintaining and improving safety. Through TIGER grants, discretionary funds and other programs, DOT is working to enhance, expand and modernize American infrastructure, but Congress needs to act. A bipartisan long-term transportation bill is necessary to move our country into the future.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Announces $5.1 Million for New Buses, Fueling Station to Enhance Bus Rapid Transit Service in Reno

5/15/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

RENO, Nev. – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today announced that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County received a $5.1 million grant to purchase new hybrid-electric buses and build a new fueling station. The improvements will enhance bus rapid transit service for the growing number of riders who are choosing to take public transportation along Virginia Street, one of the region's busiest corridors.

"With transit ridership at its highest level in five years, the Obama Administration understands the value and importance of continuing to invest in bus rapid transit lines, commuter and light rail systems, and other public transit options," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "It's important to preserve and maintain the transit infrastructure we've already built, to keep it safe and dependable for the millions who take transit today and in years to come."

Funding for up to 10 new hybrid electric buses that will boost service on Virginia Street and a fueling station that will be built at RTC's maintenance and operations facility is provided through the Federal Transit Administration's FY2011 State of Good Repair grant program.

"The RAPID BRT offers a reliable, desirable alternative for residents heading to jobs on or near the downtown corridor, and students heading to the University of Nevada at Reno," said Administrator Rogoff. "There are many more good projects like this across the country that need funding,

which is why Congress must pass a strong transportation bill to expand and preserve our transit systems for years to come.&#65533;

Administrator Rogoff&#65533;s announcement was made at the new Liberty Street Station stop in downtown Reno at an event to celebrate the opening of the new state-of-the-art bus stations on the bus rapid transit line, which also received $6.7 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding to upgrade a total of 14 bus stations.

Today&#65533;s announcement is just one way the Department of Transportation is celebrating National Transportation Week (May 14th - 20th). Over the next seven days, the Department is highlighting its commitment to ensuring the safety of America&#65533;s transportation systems this week and all 52 weeks of the year. Investment in our nation&#65533;s infrastructure is critical for maintaining and improving safety. Through TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants, discretionary funds and other programs, the Department of Transportation is working to enhance, expand and modernize American infrastructure, but Congress needs to act. A bipartisan long-term transportation bill is necessary to move our country into the future.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces $54.5 Million To Construct New Bus Rapid Transit Line in Fort Collins

5/21/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced a $54.5 million funding agreement with Fort Collins for a new MAX Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line expected to reduce commuting times and traffic congestion along College Avenue, and spur economic development in the heart of the Mason Corridor. Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff joined local officials in signing the agreement.

"The Obama Administration is committed to bringing more good transportation choices to cities like Fort Collins so that hard-working families, students and seniors have affordable access to jobs, school, medical appointments and all the city's downtown attractions," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "This MAX BRT service is an excellent investment in Fort Collins' future economic growth and sustainability."

The Mason Corridor is a five-mile, north-south byway from Cherry Street to south of Harmony Road. It combines the MAX BRT corridor with a bicycle and pedestrian trail. The Corridor will help create opportunities for new mixed-use and transit oriented developments that avoid sprawl and enhance sustainability and livability. Nearly two-thirds of area jobs are located within a half-mile of the corridor, which includes Colorado State University and its veterinary teaching hospital, the federal Natural Resource Research Laboratory Headquarters, and local government offices.

"This is a great example of modern bus rapid transit done right, offering thousands of riders a convenient, efficient ride from Cherry Street on the

North end to the new South Transit Center,&#65533; said Administrator Rogoff. &#65533;It&#65533;s a reliable and desirable way to travel&#65533;and helps people keep more money in their wallets instead of paying it at the gas pump.&#65533;

The BRT is also expected to help revitalize the downtown shopping district by improving access to the area. To that end, a new university student housing center and a third new apartment building are under construction, and developers are purchasing land along the Corridor for future commercial and residential projects.

In addition to the agreement signed today, the Federal Transit Administration is also making almost $3.9 million available for the project through its Bus and Bus Facilities grant program. These funds supplement about $11 million awarded in FY2010 for project planning and related work, bringing the total federal commitment to about $69.4 million, or roughly 80 percent of the total project. The City of Fort Collins, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado State University, and the Downtown Development Authority are contributing the remaining funds toward the $87 million BRT project.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $745.2 Million to Build Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Line in Oregon

5/22/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

PORTLAND, Ore. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced an agreement for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to provide $745.2 million to the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet) for the Portland-Milwaukie light rail project, which will significantly expand transit options and create easier commutes between downtown Portland and the Milwaukie suburbs.

"Portland's commitment to public transportation and its visionary light rail and streetcar services have made it one of the most livable, sustainable and economically vibrant cities in America," said Secretary LaHood. "The Portland-Milwaukie light rail project will bring more great transportation options to people in the region, create thousands of jobs during construction and boost economic development along the new line for years to come."

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff signed the full-funding grant agreement during a ceremony in Portland. The FTA grant clears the way for TriMet to begin construction of the light rail extension and covers half of the total cost of the $1.49 billion project.

"The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project will make a huge difference in the quality of life of thousands of people in the greater Portland area, connect residents in north Clackamas County to jobs downtown and breathe new life into older neighborhoods like Brooklyn," said Administrator Rogoff. "This project demonstrates the power of public transportation to help transform a major American city for the 21st century."

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff was joined by Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, Portland Mayor Sam Adams, TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane and other local officials.

According to TriMet, more than 14,500 jobs are expected to be created during construction of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project, which includes construction of 10 new stations and a new transit bridge over the Willamette River to facilitate the 7.3-mile expansion of light rail service from Portland State University, across the river and into Milwaukie and north Clackamas County.

The project also supports pedestrian and bicycle improvements creating additional options for people to get around. TriMet's MAX light rail service is scheduled to begin in 2015.

###

FTA Deputy Administrator Joins Officials in St. Louis To Kick Off Eads Bridge Rehabilitation Project

5/22/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan today joined Missouri and Illinois officials to kick off the Eads Bridge Rehabilitation Project, which will repair and restore the historic, 138-year old bridge and ensure safe and efficient light rail service for thousands of people who use the bridge to cross the Mississippi River every day.

"The Obama Administration's investments in America's transit systems, railways, roads and bridges are generating tens of thousands of construction-related jobs and putting more money in the pockets of working Americans," said Secretary Ray LaHood. "But we must do more. Congress needs to pass a strong transportation bill so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like the Eads Bridge, projects that will keep our economy moving and growing for years to come."

The $36 million project is funded in part by more than $34 million in federal dollars, including $25 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and $9 million in additional federal transit funds directed to the Bi-State Development Agency of the Missouri-Illinois Metropolitan District. Local funds will cover the remaining cost to modernize and repair the bridge, which was built in 1874.

�Keeping this essential bridge safe and in good working order is not a luxury, it�s a necessity,� said Deputy Administrator McMillan. �All across America, the infrastructure we depend on, like this bridge, is in need of modernization and repairs. We must protect and preserve all our existing transportation assets�bridges, highways, transit systems, and more�so that future generations enjoy safe, reliable transportation wherever they live and work.�

Deputy Administrator McMillan was joined by Congressman William Clay, City of East St. Louis, Ill., Mayor Alvin Parks, City of St. Louis, Mo., Mayor Francis Slay, Metro President and CEO John Nations, Metro Board Chair David Dietzel and other local officials.

More than 300 jobs are expected to be created during the major reconstruction of the bridge, with a local firm, St. Louis Bridge Construction Company, at the helm. Workers will replace support steel that dates back to the 1920s, upgrade the MetroLink track system, and blast and paint the entire superstructure with a protective coating to prevent future rust. The project is expected to be completed by the fall of 2015.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Awards $37.5 Million To Build Two New Bus Rapid Transit Lines in Seattle Region

6/1/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today awarded $37.5 million to the King County Department of Transportation to build two new bus rapid transit lines as part of greater Seattle's new six corridor RapidRide bus rapid transit (BRT) system.

"With nationwide transit ridership at its highest level in five years, the Obama Administration is committed to giving Americans greater options for getting where they need to go," said Secretary LaHood. "The new RapidRide transit lines are an excellent investment in Seattle's future economic growth and sustainability."

The new RapidRide E and F lines are funded through the Federal Transit Administration's Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program. The E Line will operate between Shoreline and downtown Seattle. The F Line will provide connections between the cities of Burien, SeaTac, Tukwila and Renton, as well as to Link light rail and Sounder commuter rail. The lines will provide riders with more frequent bus service along designated business lanes along portions of the routes and traffic signal improvements that help buses get through intersections quicker. The hybrid buses also have lower floors for easier accessibility from the streets.

“King County’s RapidRide bus lines are a great example of bus rapid transit done right,” said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. “The RapidRide system is essentially rail on wheels and will help people keep more money in their wallets instead of paying it at the pump.”

RapidRide A and B Lines opened in 2010 and 2011, respectively, and currently serve more than 13,000 riders on an average weekday. The C and D Lines are expected to open this fall. Service on the E and F Lines is slated to begin in the fall of 2013.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff Celebrates Grand Opening of New Recovery Act-Funded Ames Transportation Hub

6/9/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

AMES, Iowa – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today celebrated the grand opening of the Ames Intermodal Facility, a Recovery Act-funded public transportation hub that will provide greater mobility for residents, students, faculty and visitors to the city. He was joined by Senator Tom Harkin and state and local officials.

"The Ames Intermodal Facility will provide families, students, seniors and others with better, more affordable options for getting where they need to go," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "The Obama Administration knows that investing in our transportation infrastructure creates jobs and strengthens communities, which is why Congress must act now to pass a long-term reauthorization bill."

The project, which received $8.5 million in 2010 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program, created more than 80 jobs during the facility's construction, according to the Ames Transit Agency.

"In addition to providing good paying jobs at a time when they were needed most, this project is an investment in the economic revitalization of

Campustown, one of the city's most important commercial centers," said Administrator Rogoff.

The new 10,000 square-foot facility will provide a seamless connection between public and private transportation services, including local bus service, intercity and interstate buses, taxi and shuttle service to Des Moines Airport, as well as bike path connections.

Before the construction of the facility, the various transportation services were scattered throughout Ames, requiring passengers to walk for blocks to make connections. The facility's 384-space parking lot also makes trips to the downtown business district more convenient.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $10 Million TIGER Grant for New Rail Transportation Center in Delaware

Newark Mayor Vance Funk, Delaware Transportation Secretary Shailen Bhatt, Administrator Rogoff

6/22/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064

NEWARK, Del. – The U.S. Department of Transportation today announced a $10 million grant to build a new regional rail transportation center on the proposed University of Delaware Science and Technology campus. The project is one of 47 projects in 34 states and the District of Columbia selected to receive funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's highly competitive $500 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) 2012 program.

"TIGER projects like this one, serving the busiest passenger rail corridor in the nation, mean good transportation jobs today and a stronger economic future for the nation," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country building roads, bridges and other projects that will mean better, safer transportation for generations to come."

The $26 million Newark Regional Transportation Center is expected to create more than 1,000 construction jobs, according to the Wilmington Area Planning Council. It will be located on the proposed University of Delaware

Science and Technology campus, on the site of a vacant Chrysler Assembly plant. The project was planned and designed using TIGER II planning funds.

"Newark"s new rail facility provides a real desirable transportation alternative to the grueling congestion on the I-95 corridor, while improving the efficiency and comfort of commuter rail passengers in the region," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, who was in Newark for the grant announcement. "Across the country, the TIGER program is putting Americans back to work and vacant lots back to good use so that communities may thrive for years to come."

The new transportation center, which replaces the current rail station nearby, will serve more than 20,000 future students anticipated at the new campus, in addition to 30,000 residents of the City of Newark and surrounding communities, and over a million travelers a year who use Amtrak and regional commuter rail service connecting Newark with Philadelphia. The center will also serve an expanding regional workforce, thanks to an influx of thousands of jobs at the U.S. Army"s Aberdeen Proving Ground about 30 miles away in Northeastern Maryland.

The TIGER program is a highly competitive program that funds innovative projects that are difficult or impossible to fund through other federal programs. In many cases, these grants will serve as the final piece of funding for infrastructure investments totaling $1.7 billion in overall project costs. These federal funds are being leveraged with money from private sector partners, states, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations and transit agencies.

TIGER has enjoyed overwhelming demand since its creation, a trend continued by TIGER 2012. Applications for this most recent round of grants totaled $10.2 billion, far exceeding the $500 million set aside for the program. In all, the Department received 703 applications from all 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

The grants will fund a wide range of innovative transportation projects in urban and rural areas across the country:

- Of the $500 million in TIGER 2012 funds available for grants, more than $120 million will go to critical projects in rural areas.
- Roughly 35 percent of the funding will go to road and bridge projects, including more than $30 million for the replacement of rural roads and bridges that need improvements to address safety and state of good repair deficiencies.
- 16 percent of the funding will support transit projects like the Wave Streetcar Project in Fort Lauderdale.

- 13 percent of the funding will support high-speed and intercity passenger rail projects like the Raleigh Union Station Project in North Carolina.
- 12 percent will go to freight rail projects, including elements of the CREATE (Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency) program to reduce freight rail congestion in Chicago.
- 12 percent will go to multimodal, bicycle and pedestrian projects like the Main Street to Main Street Multimodal Corridor project connecting Memphis and West Memphis.
- 12 percent will help build port projects like the Outer Harbor Intermodal Terminal at the Port of Oakland.
- Three grants were also directed to tribal governments to create jobs and address critical transportation needs in Indian country.

Over the next six months, 27 projects are expected to break ground from the previous three rounds of TIGER. In addition, work is under way on 64 capital projects across the country.

On November 18, 2011, the President signed the FY 2012 Appropriations Act, which provided $500 million for Department of Transportation national infrastructure investments. Like the first three rounds, TIGER 2012 grants are for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are awarded on a competitive basis. This is the fourth round of TIGER funding

Under all four rounds combined, the TIGER program has provided $3.1 billion to 218 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Demand for the program has been overwhelming, and during all four rounds, the Department of Transportation received more than 4,050 applications requesting more than $105.2 billion for transportation projects across the country.

The fiscal year 2013 appropriations bill currently under consideration in the U.S. Senate provides $500 million for a future round of TIGER grants.

Click here for additional information on individual TIGER grants http://www.dot.gov/tiger/fy2012tiger.pdf.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $20 Million TIGER Grant to Modernize Chicago's 95th Street Terminal

Congressman Bobby Rush, Senator Dick Durbin, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and Administrator Peter Rogoff.

6/25/2012
Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064

CHICAGO — The U.S. Department of Transportation today announced a $20 million grant to repair and update the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) fourth-busiest rail station, which also serves as a major bus terminal. The project is one of 47 transportation projects in 34 states and the District of Columbia selected to receive funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's highly competitive $500 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) 2012 program.

"Across the country, the TIGER program is putting Americans back to work improving transit facilities and expanding transportation access in communities nationwide," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country building roads, bridges and other projects that will mean better, safer transportation for generations to come."

The $140 million terminal overhaul will make much-needed repairs and updates to the 43-year-old bus and rail facility that will improve accessibility for commuters, especially elderly riders and people with disabilities. The

project supports the long-term efficiency, reliability and sustainability of an essential transit terminal on Chicago's South Side. A portion of the grant will be used to support an innovative, low-cost TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) loan for up to one-third of the project's cost. The TIFIA program provides federal credit assistance in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees and standby lines of credit to finance surface transportation projects of national and regional significance.

"With transit ridership on the rise in Chicago and around the country, access to affordable public transit that's safe, clean, reliable and desirable is more important than ever," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, at a grant announcement event at Chicago's 95th Street Terminal.

Nationwide, there is an estimated $78 billion backlog in critical rail transit repair needs in cities such as Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. CTA alone, which serves 1.6 million riders daily, faces $7 billion in capital needs and repairs over the next four years. All of Chicago's transit services combined face a 10-year, $24 billion backlog to repair and replace rail cars, rail stations, and rail bridges that are past their useful lives.

The TIGER program is a highly competitive grant program that funds innovative projects that are difficult to fund through other federal programs. In many cases, these grants will serve as the final piece of funding for infrastructure investments totaling $1.7 billion in overall project costs. These federal funds are being leveraged with money from private sector partners, states, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations and transit agencies.

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On November 18, 2011, the President signed the FY 2012 Appropriations Act, which provided $500 million for Department of Transportation national infrastructure investments. Like the first three rounds, TIGER 2012 grants are for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are awarded on a competitive basis. This is the fourth round of TIGER funding.

Under all four rounds combined, the TIGER program has provided $3.1 billion to 218 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Demand for the program has been overwhelming, and during all four rounds, the Department of Transportation received more than 4,050 applications requesting more than $105.2 billion for transportation projects across the country.

The fiscal year 2013 appropriations bill currently under consideration in the U.S. Senate provides $500 million for a future round of TIGER grants.

Click here for additional information on individual TIGER grants http://www.dot.gov/tiger/fy2012tiger.pdf.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $29 Million to Help Veterans and Military Families Connect to Jobs and More by Tapping Local Transportation

7/2/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced $29 million in grants to provide improved access to local transportation for veterans and their families, wounded warriors and other military personnel, helping them find affordable rides to work, school, shopping, medical care and other destinations in their communities. The grants will support 64 projects in 33 states and the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Ensuring that our veterans and military families have access to quality, convenient transportation is just one way we can thank them for their service," said Secretary LaHood. "With these transportation grants, we will help connect veterans and military families with the jobs and training opportunities they deserve, as well as the medical care and other services they need, all located close to home."

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative, funded and managed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), supports efforts by local governments and transit agencies to implement technologies"ranging from "smart phone" applications to real-time transit bus locator information"that make it easier for veterans and others to access and schedule rides on available buses, vans, taxis and other transportation systems. The unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is more than 12 percent, more than four percentage points above the national average.

"America's war heroes deserve a chance to support their families, participate in their communities, receive job training and get to work," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, who was in Lee County, Florida, for the announcement. "It's vitally important that we remove barriers to success by making transportation available wherever our veterans choose to live, work and receive care."

Projects receiving grants today include:

- Lee County, Florida, which is receiving a $1.4 million grant that will, among other things, enable the installation of new information kiosks at a brand new Veterans Administration outpatient clinic in Cape Coral and other locations, where veterans can readily obtain real-time information on transit rides and schedules, day or night.
- The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority in Dayton, Ohio, which is home to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and more than 80,000 veterans. The $450,000 grant announced today will make it easier for returning and retired veterans and those who have disabilities to arrange for rides by phone, smart phone or on the web.

FTA received 81 eligible proposals requesting $41 million for this second round of the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative grants, reflecting strong demand for the program. In FY2011, FTA awarded $34.6 million for 55 veterans' transportation projects around the country.

The Obama Administration has committed roughly a $1 billion a year in discretionary resources to help communities around the nation build and expand light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, and other forms of public transportation to connect American families, including our nation's returning veterans, with jobs, education, medical care and other vital services.

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative was developed by the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility, a permanent partnership of federal departments working together to better coordinate federal programs on behalf of people with disabilities, older adults and individuals with lower incomes. The Council is chaired by Secretary LaHood.

For more information on the individual grants go to http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094_13528.html.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces a $12.8 Million TIGER Grant to Rebuild Philadelphia's Wayne Junction Power Substation

7/11/2012
Contact: Justin Nisly
(202) 366-5581

PHILADELPHIA - U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced a $12.8 million TIGER 2012 discretionary grant to rebuild the Wayne Junction Power Substation at an event today in Philadelphia. He was joined by Congressman Chaka Fattah, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority's (SEPTA) General Manager Joseph Casey. The project is one of 47 transportation projects in 34 states and the District of Columbia selected to receive funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's highly competitive $500 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery 2012 (TIGER 2012) grant program.

"This TIGER grant will improve the safety and reliability of the entire Philadelphia area commuter rail system that so many residents need to use every day," said Secretary LaHood. "President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country building our roads and bridges and making sure our transit systems are safe and reliable for generations to come."

The substation, which was originally constructed in 1931 and has been in continuous operation ever since. The substation continues to operate with the majority of the original components and is the central point, supplying power to SEPTA's Main Line and northern branches which collectively carry over 17.5 million passengers annually.

"These federal funds will create good-paying jobs and improve the City's mass transit system - a double win for Philadelphia," said Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter. "I am grateful to President Obama, Secretary LaHood, Senator Casey and our entire Congressional delegation for their support. The U.S. Department of Transportation recognized the power of a multi-agency partnership to address the state of good repair challenges facing Philadelphia and the region. We are endowed with great transit and bridge infrastructure and this grant will ensure it works well for decades to come."

Philadelphia identified the project as necessary to improving the reliability and safety of a critical transit substation in urgent need of repair. The Wayne Junction Power Substation serves a critical role in the Philadelphia region's commuter network, powering much of SEPTA transit systems. If the Wayne Junction substation failed, commuters across the Philadelphia area and surrounding counties that rely on SEPTA's Main Line and northern branches, including the Lansdale-Doylestown, Warminster, West Trenton, Fox Chase, Chestnut Hill East and Norristown Lines would be without regional rail. This TIGER grant will also replace 25 indoor and outdoor rail breakers, transformers, cut-out switches, relays, and control equipment. Maintaining the substation will ensure efficient, cost-effective, and safe commuter rail service for the City of Philadelphia and the region.

"A year ago, I toured Wayne Junction's aging substation infrastructure and promised SEPTA's riders we would get help. Today Secretary LaHood is in North Philadelphia delivering on that promise," said Congressman Chaka Fattah, who represents the surrounding community. "These critical federal resources will create jobs, upgrade the transit grid and improve SEPTA's service" a model for the Obama Administration approach to economic recovery and winning our nation's future."

"The modernization of the antiquated Wayne Junction substation, built during the Hoover Administration, is long overdue," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "The residents of Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Mercer Counties should be reassured by this Administration's critical investment to bring 21st century reliability to their daily commutes."

The highly competitive TIGER 2012 discretionary grant program awards grants to innovative projects that are difficult or impossible to fund through other federal programs. In many cases, these grants will serve as the final piece of funding for infrastructure investments totaling $1.7 billion in overall project costs. These federal funds are being leveraged with money from private sector partners, states, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations and transit agencies.

TIGER has enjoyed overwhelming demand since its creation, a trend continued by TIGER 2012. Applications for this most recent round of grants totaled $10.2 billion, far exceeding the $500 million set aside for the program. In all, the Department received over 700 applications from all 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

The grants will fund a wide range of innovative transportation projects in urban and rural areas across the country:

- Of the $500 million in TIGER 2012 funds available for grants, more than $120 million will go to critical projects in rural areas.
- Roughly 35 percent of the funding will go to road and bridge projects, including more than $30 million for the replacement of rural roads and bridges that need improvements to address safety and state of good repair deficiencies.
- 16 percent of the funding will support transit projects like the Wave Streetcar Project in Fort Lauderdale.
- 13 percent of the funding will support high-speed and intercity passenger rail projects like the Raleigh Union Station Project in North Carolina.
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- 12 percent will go to multimodal, bicycle and pedestrian projects like the Main Street to Main Street Multimodal Corridor project connecting Memphis and West Memphis.
- 12 percent will help build port projects like the Outer Harbor Intermodal Terminal at the Port of Oakland.
- Three grants were also directed to tribal governments to create jobs and address critical transportation needs in Indian country.

Over the next six months, 27 projects are expected to break ground from the previous three rounds of TIGER. In addition, work is under way on 64 capital projects across the country.

On November 18, 2011, the President signed the FY 2012 Appropriations Act, which provided $500 million for Department of Transportation national infrastructure investments. Like the first three rounds, TIGER 2012 grants are for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are awarded on a competitive basis. This is the fourth round of TIGER funding.

Under all four rounds combined, the TIGER program has provided $3.1 billion to 218 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Demand for the program has been overwhelming, and during all four rounds, the Department of Transportation received more than 4,050 applications requesting more than $105.2 billion for transportation projects across the country.

Click here for additional information on individual TIGER grants http://www.dot.gov/tiger/fy2012tiger.pdf.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Joins Congressional and Safety Leaders to Highlight FTA's Historic New Authority for Strengthening Transit Safety Nationwide

7/16/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

[Administrator Rogoff remarks]

HYATTSVILLE, Md.—U.S. Transportation Deputy Secretary John Porcari and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski and top safety and transit officials to celebrate a legislative victory that will ensure that transit passengers in the United States who board a light rail, commuter rail, heavy rail or transit bus will travel on a system governed by robust federal safety oversight for the first time.

The new safety regulatory authority in MAP-21(Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), the new two-year transportation authorization signed into law by President Obama on July 6, is the culmination of a concerted effort by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that began in December 2009, when Secretary LaHood formally transmitted to Congress a legislative proposal to establish and enforce minimum federal safety standards for rail transit systems. Many of the safety provisions included in MAP-21, which take effect on October 1, 2012, are reflected in the Administration's proposal.

�Safety is our highest priority, and I am enormously pleased that we now have the authority to impose strong safety regulations that are long overdue,� said U.S. Transportation Deputy Secretary John Porcari. �Even as demand for public transportation rises across the United States, it remains one of the safest ways to travel and this Administration intends to keep it that way.�

�This is an important win for the safety of tens of millions of Americans who use transit each day and for the well-being of transit workers on the front lines as conductors and track inspectors,� said Administrator Rogoff. �I�m deeply gratified that for the first time, we are ushering in an era where in every state and transit agency safety will be a real priority.�

MAP-21 requires, among other things, that FTA define and establish a State Safety Oversight program to ensure that rail transit systems are meeting stringent safety requirements. The law also includes important new safety provisions for bus-only operators. FTA will implement the new law in consultation with the transit community and the DOT Transit Rail Advisory Committee for Safety, which has been working since September of 2010 to help guide this effort.

Under current law, FTA, which finances nearly half of the capital expenditures for transit systems nationwide, is not authorized to issue basic safety standards to protect rail transit passengers and rail workers. The result is a patchwork of state laws that do not provide seamless or consistent safety coverage. For instance, a passenger can board a MARC commuter train in Maryland that is subject to safety regulations imposed by the Federal Railroad Administration and then transfer directly to the Washington, D.C. Metrorail, which is not subject to direct federal safety regulation or oversight. The transit safety provisions in MAP-21 will help to remedy these long-standing shortcomings.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $45.7 Million to Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area

7/23/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

SAN FRANCISCO – The U.S. Department of Transportation today announced $45.7 million in federal funding for the San Francisco Bay Area to replace aging buses and transit vehicles that will improve service for hundreds of thousands of people who take public transit every day. The seven projects are among 255 projects in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that were selected to receive a share of $787 million.

"President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country modernizing our nation's public transit systems," said Secretary LaHood. "By investing in the transit infrastructure people depend on to get where they need to go each day, we will keep our economy moving forward well into the future."

Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan was in San Francisco today to announce the projects, which encourage more people to take transit as an alternative to the Bay Area's congested freeways.

"From San Jose to Oakland, these funds go a long way to put more comfortable, efficient, clean-fuel vehicles on the road to meet rising demand

for service,&#65533; said Deputy Administrator McMillan. &#65533;These awards are a big win for everybody because they will reduce highway congestion, improve air quality, and help this region continue to offer balanced transportation options for millions of residents.&#65533;

Altogether, the State of California is receiving more than $126 million for 25 much-needed projects to make taking transit safe, reliable and desirable.

A map of this year&#65533;s projects, along with a searchable table, can be found here: http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14741.html

In total, FTA announced funding for seven projects in the Bay Area:

- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (MUNI): $6.3 million to upgrade local bus service to improve travel times into San Francisco&#65533;s central business district. The grant will help execute time saving strategies like transit signal priority and convenient off-board fare collection. Commuters in 10 neighborhoods, from Oceanview to Portola to North Beach, will benefit.
- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (MUNI): $15 million to replace diesel buses with hybrid buses to improve fuel economy, contribute to cleaner air, and provide more reliable service for thousands of daily riders.
- San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART): $3.16 million to install real-time bus and rail departure and arrival information at key stations, thus offering riders accurate updates on service while they&#65533;re at the station.
- Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit): $7.5 million for new equipment to collect and track fares in Oakland, which speeds the boarding process and makes paying for transit more convenient for riders.
- Monterey-Salinas Transit in Monterey: $5 million to replace aging transit vehicles with a mixture of hybrid buses, clean diesel urban and commuter vehicles and longer articulate buses, comprised of two rigid sections linked by a pivoting joint. The new vehicles will improve the riding experience while contributing to cleaner air and saving on fuel costs.
- San Mateo County Transit District: $4.95 million to replace aging buses with hybrid-electric diesel buses in San Mateo County that will reduce emissions, fuel and maintenance costs, while contributing to a more reliable ride.
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority: $3.75 million to replace aging buses with hybrid-electric diesel buses in San Jose that will reduce maintenance costs and contribute to cleaner air by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Generally, a transit authority with a fleet of about 20 buses that upgrades from standard diesel to hybrid-electric power can expect to save roughly $200,000 in fuel costs over a year.

Reflecting the need for infrastructure investment, demand for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) FY2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability funds was overwhelming. FTA received 836 project applications requesting $4 billion. In FY2010 and FY2011, FTA awarded a total of more than $1.8 billion in grants for hundreds of state of good repair projects, primarily involving buses and bus facilities.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $787 Million to Repair, Modernize Nation's Aging Transit Infrastructure

7/23/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced $787 million that will put Americans to work modernizing and replacing aging transit facilities and vehicles to meet the growing demand from millions of riders across the country. This third round of federal funding will support 255 projects in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

"President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country repairing and upgrading our nation's public transit systems," said Secretary LaHood. "By investing in the transit infrastructure people depend on to get where we need to go each day, we will keep our economy moving forward well into the future."

Reflecting the need for infrastructure investment nationwide, demand for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) FY2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability funds was overwhelming. FTA received 836 project applications totaling $4 billion in requests." In FY2010 and FY2011, FTA awarded a total of more than $1.8 billion in grants for hundreds of state of good repair projects, primarily involving buses and bus facilities.

"Since Day One, this Administration has been focused on addressing the maintenance backlog of our nation's transit systems, and this is another down-payment on that effort," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff." "For millions of Americans, these investments mean that they may more reliably and safely get to work to earn a paycheck or get to daycare to pick up their children on time, or simply have new choices to enjoy the communities in which they live."

An interactive map of this year's projects, along with a searchable table, can be found here:" http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14741.html

Examples of projects selected include:

- New Jersey Transit: $76 million to upgrade its statewide bus fleet, to improve commuting times, improve air quality for state residents, and save on fuel by doubling the fleet of fuel-efficient buses." In addition,

the state will put new hybrid coach buses on the road to improve the commute to New York City and start a new Bus Rapid Transit service between Camden County and downtown Philadelphia.

- Maryland Department of Transportation: $40 million to replace Baltimore's 65-year old Kirk Division Bus Facility with two sustainable "green" buildings that will help reduce operating costs, create local construction jobs in Northeast Baltimore, and help more than 350 local transit employees maintain a growing fleet of new, energy-efficient buses that are now serviced elsewhere.
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority: $15 million to replace aging buses with new buses which will use compressed natural gas." These new buses will improve reliability for riders, leave a smaller environmental footprint and reduce fuel costs.
- Capital Area Transportation Authority in East Lansing, Michigan: $6.3 million to redevelop a former Amtrak station near Michigan State University into the Capital Area Multi-Modal Gateway Project, which will improve bicycle and pedestrian access and connections to local bus and rail service.
- City of Charlotte, North Carolina: $4 million to replace Charlotte Area Transit System diesel buses that have met or exceeded their useful lives with new hybrid technology buses that will reduce emissions, save on fuel costs, and reduce long term maintenance costs.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $36.5 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in Massachusetts

7/23/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced $36.5 million in federal funding for Massachusetts to replace aging buses and transit facilities that will improve service for thousands of people who take public transit every day. The three projects are among 255 projects in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico selected to receive a share of $787 million in funding.

"President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country, including here in Massachusetts, modernizing our nation's roads, rails, bridges, and public transit systems," said Secretary LaHood. "By investing in the transit infrastructure people depend on to get where they need to go each day, we will keep our economy moving forward well into the future."

Secretary LaHood was in Springfield today to announce one of the projects, a $17.6 million grant to help the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority replace the century-old Union Station in downtown Springfield. The new facility will offer a single convenient location to board local and intercity bus and rail service. The Secretary was joined at the event by Massachusetts Congressman Richard Neal and other state and local officials.

"These funds will go a long way to make transportation easier, more convenient, and more efficient for travelers in New England, with convenient access to Bradley International Airport and enhanced rail service to Boston," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

A map of this year's projects, along with a searchable table, can be found here: http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14741.html

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) also announced funding for two additional Massachusetts projects:

- Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority: $15 million to replace aging buses with new energy-efficient vehicles which will reduce emissions, lower operating costs, and better meet the needs of Boston-area commuters.

- Pioneer Valley Transit Authority: $3.96 million to replace a century-old operations and maintenance facility in downtown Springfield with a new, more efficient facility that will be better equipped to repair and maintain a growing fleet of buses.

Generally, a transit authority with a fleet of about 20 buses that upgrades from standard diesel to hybrid-electric power can expect to save roughly $200,000 in fuel costs over a year.

The funds are provided through FTA's FY2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability programs. The selection process was highly competitive, with FTA receiving 836 project applications representing $4 billion in funding requests from transit providers. In FY2010 and FY2011, FTA awarded a total of more than $1.8 billion in grants for hundreds of state of good repair projects, primarily involving buses and bus facilities.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $45 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in Maryland

7/23/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

BALTIMORE – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced $45 million in federal funding for Maryland to replace aging buses and transit facilities that will improve service for thousands of people who take public transit every day. The five projects are among 255 projects in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico selected to receive a share of $787 million in funding.

"President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country, including here in Maryland, modernizing our nation's roads, rails, bridges, and public transit systems," said Secretary LaHood. "By investing in the transit infrastructure people depend on to get where they need to go each day, we will keep our economy moving forward well into the future."

Secretary LaHood was in Baltimore today to announce one of the projects, a $40 million grant to replace Baltimore's 65-year-old Kirk Bus Facility. The new, environmentally sustainable facilities will be better equipped to repair and maintain a growing fleet of clean-fuel buses which will help reduce operating costs. The Secretary was joined at the event by Maryland Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Elijah Cummings and other state and local officials.

"This project will create good local construction jobs in Northeast Baltimore and help more than 350 local transit employees do an even better job maintaining a growing fleet of new, energy-efficient buses that are currently serviced elsewhere," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

A map of this year's projects, along with a searchable table, can be found here: http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14741.html

FTA also announced funding for four additional projects in Maryland:

- Maryland Transit Administration: $1.65 million for safety and accessibility improvements, including an expanded waiting area at

Baltimore's Cherry Hill transit hub which connects city bus and light rail service.

- Allegheny County Transit: $528,222 to Allegheny County in western Maryland to replace aging buses with new vehicles equipped with wheelchair lifts to serve seniors, people with disabilities, and other transit-dependent riders.
- Town of Ocean City: $2 million to help replace aging buses with new fuel-efficient vehicles that will reduce emissions, save on fuel, and meet the needs of eight million summer tourists.
- Maryland Department of Transportation: An $800,000 transit asset management grant to help the state develop and implement new and improved ways to manage and maintain the condition of transit facilities and equipment statewide.

Generally, a transit authority with a fleet of about 20 buses that upgrades from standard diesel to hybrid-electric power can expect to save roughly $200,000 in fuel costs over a year.

The funds are provided through FTA's FY2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability programs. The selection process was highly competitive, with FTA receiving 836 project applications representing $4 billion in funding requests from transit providers. In FY2010 and FY2011, FTA awarded a total of more than $1.8 billion in grants for hundreds of state of good repair projects, primarily involving buses and bus facilities.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $46.7 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in Michigan

7/23/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

EAST LANSING – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced $46.7 million in federal funding for Michigan to replace aging buses and transit facilities to improve service for thousands of people who take public transit every day. The seven projects are among 255 projects in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico selected to receive a share of $787 million in funding.

"President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country, including here in Michigan, modernizing our nation's roads, rails, bridges and public transit systems," said Secretary LaHood. "By investing in the transit infrastructure people depend on to get where they need to go each day, we will keep our economy moving forward well into the future."

Robert Rivkin, General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Transportation, was in East Lansing today to announce a $6.3 million grant to the Capital Area Transportation Authority to renovate the East Lansing Amtrak Station near Michigan State University.

"This station provides a vital link for thousands of students and local commuters who pass through here every day to board a bus, hop a bike, or take a train," said Rivkin. "This is a great win for the capital city region – modernizing essential facility, making it accessible for people with disabilities, improving safety for pedestrians and providing transportation options."

A map of this year's projects, along with a searchable table, can be found here: http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14741.html

In addition to the East Lansing grant, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced funding for six additional projects in Michigan:

- Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation: $30 million to replace aging buses throughout Greater Detroit, install on-board security cameras, add a GPS automatic vehicle location system to

improve on-time performance of transit vehicles, and rehabilitate the Coolidge Terminal.

- Michigan Department of Transportation: $5 million to be shared among 20 rural transit agencies to replace aging buses with more fuel-efficient vehicles to reduce emissions, save on gas, and provide a better ride for rural residents throughout the State of Michigan.
- The Mass Transportation Authority in Flint: $4 million to replace aging transit vehicles with sustainable, fuel-efficient hybrid electric and propane-fueled vehicles to reduce emissions and lower fuel costs.
- The Livingston County Transit Agency: $877,476 to replace aging transit buses, and expand the fleet with new buses, to reduce emissions and reduce fuel costs.
- Harbor Transit Multi-Modal Transportation System: $482,240 to replace aging diesel buses with more fuel-efficient vehicles to reduce emissions, save on gas, and provide a better ride for residents and commuters in Grand Haven.
- Blue Water Area Transportation Commission: $79,000 to improve safety for St. Claire Community College riders and others who depend on local bus service to get around by adding off-street bus boarding and better access to transit for those riding bicycles.

Generally, a transit authority with a fleet of about 20 buses that upgrades from standard diesel to hybrid-electric power can expect to save roughly $200,000 in fuel costs over a year.

Reflecting the need for infrastructure investment, demand for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) FY2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability funds was overwhelming. FTA received 836 project applications requesting $4 billion. In FY2010 and FY2011, FTA awarded a total of more than $1.8 billion in grants for hundreds of state of good repair projects, primarily involving buses and bus facilities.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $76 Million To Upgrade Statewide Bus Fleet, Improve Transit Service in New Jersey

7/23/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

HOBOKEN, N.J. – The U.S. Department of Transportation today announced $76 million in federal funding for New Jersey to replace aging transit buses and improve public transportation choices for commuters in one of the nation's busiest urban corridors. The three projects selected are among 255 projects in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico selected to receive a share of $787 million in funding.

"President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country, including in New Jersey and surrounding areas, to modernize our nation's roads, rails, bridges and public transit systems," said Secretary LaHood. "By investing in the transit infrastructure people depend on to get where they need to go each day, we will keep our economy moving forward well into the future."

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was in Hoboken today to announce the funds, which New Jersey Transit (NJ Transit) will use to modernize and improve public transportation services between Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia, and New York City. The Administrator was joined at the event by New Jersey Senators Robert Menendez and Frank Lautenberg and other state and local officials.

�These funds will help the most transit-dependent state in the nation to deliver more comfortable, convenient and efficient bus service so people can get to work on time and leave their cars at home,� said Rogoff. �A more fuel-efficient bus fleet will also provide cleaner air and reduce transit operating costs for years to come.�

A map of this year�s projects, along with a searchable table, can be found here: http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14741.html

In total, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced funding to NJ Transit for three projects:

- $46.3 million to purchase new compressed natural gas (CNG) buses that will more than double NJ Transit�s CNG bus fleet. The new buses will reduce emissions and fuel costs.
- $27.2 million to purchase new hybrid cruiser buses for Southern New Jersey to New York City routes. The buses will provide a more comfortable ride for thousands of commuters, while saving on fuel and reducing emissions.
- $2.6 million to begin Bus Rapid Transit service between Camden County and Center City Philadelphia, which will result in faster commutes between major employment centers.

Generally, a transit authority with a fleet of about 20 buses that upgrades from standard diesel to hybrid-electric power can expect to save roughly $200,000 in fuel costs over a year.

Reflecting the need for infrastructure investment, demand for FTA�s FY2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability funds was overwhelming. FTA received 836 project applications representing $4 billion. In FY2010 and FY2011, FTA awarded a total of more than $1.8 billion in grants for hundreds of state of good repair projects, primarily involving buses and bus facilities.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $2.5 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Vehicles and Facilities in New Mexico

7/24/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

SANTA FE, N.M. – The U.S. Department of Transportation today announced $2.5 million in federal funding for New Mexico to replace aging buses and transit vehicles that will improve transit service for thousands of people who take public transit every day. The three projects are among 255 projects in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico selected to receive a share of $787 million in funding.

"President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country, including here in New Mexico, modernizing our nation's roads, rails, bridges, and public transit systems," said Secretary LaHood. "By investing in the transit infrastructure people depend on to get where we need to go each day, we will keep our economy moving forward well into the future."

Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan was in Santa Fe today to announce a $1.9 million grant to the City of Santa Fe to replace aging buses in the Santa Fe Trails bus fleet with compressed natural gas buses that will reduce emissions, save on fuel costs, and provide more reliable service.

�With over half the city�s buses at or near the end of their useful life, these funds go a long way to put more comfortable and efficient clean-fuel vehicles on the road to meet rising demand for service,� said Deputy Administrator McMillan. �This is a big win for everybody, by reducing highway congestion, improving air quality, and offering balanced transportation choices for residents who need a dependable ride to work, medical appointments and elsewhere.�

A map of this year�s projects, along with a searchable table, can be found at http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14741.html.

In addition to the Santa Fe grant, FTA also announced funding for two additional projects in New Mexico:

- City of Las Cruces: $278,050 to purchase replacement paratransit vehicles for use in the city�s Dial-a-Ride program to improve service for seniors and people with disabilities.
- New Mexico Department of Transportation: $340,000 to help the Rio Metro Transit District in Albuquerque to develop new and improved ways to cost-effectively manage and maintain the condition of their facilities and equipment.

The funds are provided through FTA�s FY2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability programs. The selection process was highly competitive, with FTA receiving 836 project applications representing $4 billion in funding requests from transit providers. In FY2010 and FY2011, FTA awarded more than $1.8 billion in grants for hundreds of state of good repair projects, primarily involving buses and bus facilities.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Visits Miami to Highlight New Federal Safety Oversight for Transit

Announces $10 Million for Area Transit Improvements

7/25/2012
Contact: David Longo
202-366-0608

MIAMI – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff visited Miami-Dade County officials to highlight a legislative victory that will ensure that transit passengers in the United States who board a light rail, commuter rail, heavy rail or transit bus will for the first time travel on a system governed by robust federal safety oversight. While in Miami, Secretary LaHood was joined by Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez to announce $10 million in federal funding to modernize transit buses serving thousands of riders in Miami-Dade County.

"President Obama has called for an America built to last that is based on putting safety first across our nation's transportation systems," said Secretary LaHood. "Public transit is one of the safest ways to travel and our new federal safety oversight authority will help to ensure it remains that way."

The new safety regulatory authority comes from MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), the new two-year transportation authorization signed into law by President Obama on July 6. The law enables the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to establish new safety standards for the nation's rail and bus systems and to strengthen state safety oversight organizations that currently regulate local transit. Since 1964, FTA has been prohibited by law from implementing and enforcing basic safety standards for public rail and bus transit systems. The new law is a culmination of efforts by the FTA and DOT that began in December 2009, when Secretary LaHood formally transmitted to Congress a legislative proposal to establish and enforce minimum federal safety standards for rail transit systems.

"We are closing a loophole in how transit safety oversight is regulated and enforced that is long overdue," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "This is great news for Miami-Dade transit riders, who will be able to confidently board Metrobus or Metromover, and know that both meet common-sense federal safety standards."

Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff visited the soon-to-open Miami Intermodal Center at Miami International Airport to discuss the new safety authority and announce a $10 million grant for Miami-Dade County. The funding will be used to replace aging Metrobus diesel vehicles with new hybrid-electric buses that will reduce fuel costs, lower emissions, and provide a more comfortable, reliable ride in one of the most populated counties in the Southeastern United States. Altogether, Florida is receiving $50 million for 14 projects to upgrade and repair transit statewide.

The projects are among 255 projects in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico selected to receive a share of $787 million in funding through FTA's FY2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability programs. A map of this year's projects, along with a searchable table, can be found here: http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14741.html.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $14 Million To Repair, Upgrade Transit Facilities in North Carolina

Grants follow recent $1 million investment to improve transit options for NC veterans and service members

7/26/2012
Contact: David Longo
202-366-0608

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced $14 million in federal funding for North Carolina to replace aging buses and transit facilities that will improve service for thousands of residents who take public transit every day. The four projects are among 255 projects in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico selected to receive a share of $787 million in funding.

"President Obama's support for an America built to last is putting people back to work across the country, including here in North Carolina, modernizing our nation's roads, rails, bridges and public transit systems," said Secretary LaHood. "By investing in the transit infrastructure people depend on to get where they need to go each day, we will keep our economy moving forward well into the future."

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was in Fayetteville today to announce an $8 million grant to the City of Fayetteville to help replace an outdated, temporary bus transfer center with a new, sustainable station. The new facility will contribute to downtown Fayetteville's economic

revitalization by leasing space to local businesses, restaurants, and shops near City Hall while also providing convenient access to many local bus routes.

"This station will provide a vital link for thousands of Fayetteville's seniors, veterans, and working families who depend on local buses every day to get to the VA Hospital, Walmart, Cross Creek Mall, local universities, and other key destinations," said Rogoff. "This is a great win for a city where bus ridership has grown dramatically in recent years, and where transit truly connects people with the opportunities and services they need."

A map of this year's projects, along with a searchable table, can be found at http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14741.html.

In addition to the Fayetteville grant, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced funding for three additional projects in North Carolina:

- City of Charlotte: $4 million to replace aging diesel buses with new hybrid buses that will reduce emissions, save on fuel, reduce maintenance costs and provide a more reliable ride.
- City of Concord: $2 million to replace aging buses with new hybrid-electric diesel buses that will improve air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and provide a more comfortable, reliable ride.
- City of Rocky Mount: $80,000 to help Tar River Transit replace aging buses that have needed frequent repairs with new vehicles to lower maintenance costs and provide more reliable service to rural riders who depend on transit. The fuel savings provided by the new buses will make a significant impact on city budgets. Generally, a transit authority with a fleet of about 20 buses that upgrades from standard diesel to hybrid-electric power can expect to save roughly $200,000 in fuel costs over a year.

Reflecting the need for infrastructure investment, demand for the Federal Transit Administration's FY2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability funds was overwhelming. FTA received 836 project applications requesting $4 billion. In FY2010 and FY2011, FTA awarded a total of more than $1.8 billion in grants for hundreds of state of good repair projects, primarily involving buses and bus facilities.

Today's funding announcement follows a $46,680 grant awarded to the City of Fayetteville earlier this month through FTA's Veterans Transportation Initiative to help Fort Bragg, the VA Medical Center, and surrounding counties create a website and call center providing information about transportation options and resources to more than 150,000 veterans,

active duty military, and families in the area. In all, FTA has awarded more than $64 million in the past two fiscal years to better inform and coordinate transit options for our veterans, military personnel and their families. Learn more about FTA's Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative at www.fta.dot.gov/veterans.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Calls on States to Prepare to Strengthen Transit Safety Oversight in Advance of New Federal Transit Safety Authority

8/30/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-4043

WASHINGTON – In a letter dated August 28, 2012, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood called on the governors of 26 states, Puerto Rico, and the mayor of the District of Columbia, all home to significant rail transit systems, to prepare to meet new federal regulations that the Department plans on proposing in the near future. The proposed federal regulations would require them to strengthen and increase their oversight of public transit safety and are part of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), a new two-year transportation authorization bill signed by President Obama in July, 2012.

"Under MAP-21, we're ushering in a new era for transit safety, and we are committed to working with our state leaders to strengthen and help fund robust state safety oversight agencies to carry out this vitally important mission," said Secretary LaHood. "Public transit remains one of the safest ways to travel in the U.S., and we intend to keep it that way."

MAP-21 grants FTA the authority to establish and enforce a new comprehensive framework to oversee the safety of public transportation throughout the United States as it pertains to heavy rail, light rail, buses, ferries, and streetcars.

"We are closing a loophole in how transit safety oversight is regulated and enforced that is long overdue," said Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator Peter Rogoff. "For the first time FTA will be able to establish basic safety standards to better ensure the safety of tens of millions of passengers that ride public transportation each day."

In December 2009, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood transmitted legislation to Congress on behalf of the Obama Administration that would for the first time permit the FTA to implement and enforce basic safety standards for rail transit following the deadly June 2009 Red Line accident in Washington, DC and other accidents throughout the country. This proposed legislation was a key instrument in shaping the federal safety role of public transportation in MAP-21.

MAP-21 requires, among other things, that FTA update the existing State Safety Oversight (SSO) program to ensure that rail transit systems are meeting common-sense safety requirements. The law also requires that FTA adopt important new safety provisions for bus-only operators. FTA will implement the new law in consultation with the transit community and the U.S. Department of Transportation Transit Rail Advisory Committee for Safety, which has been working since September of 2010 to help guide this effort.

MAP-21 provides grant money that FTA will direct to the states to help them comply with new requirements. Up to 80 percent of the funds are Federal; a 20 percent non-Federal match is also required. The law also adopts measures initially proposed by the Administration to ensure that SSO agencies are truly independent and not funded in ways that present regulators with a conflict of interest, such as being funded by the transit agencies they are charged with overseeing.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Announces Transit Improvements for Military, Civilian Workers in Maine, New Hampshire

Funding To Improve Access to Jobs, Transit Options in Greater Seacoast Area

9/5/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

KITTERY, Maine – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined U.S. Navy and local officials to announce the expansion of express commuter bus service that will improve transit options and make it easier for civilian and military personnel to get to work at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Pease International Tradeport, two of the area's largest employment centers. The U.S. Department of Transportation is providing more than $3.5 million for transportation improvements in the greater-Seacoast area, including a $324,000 grant made available today to the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) to improve access to transportation services for veterans and military families.

"Today's announcement will help ensure that the people of Maine and New Hampshire who proudly serve in our armed forces have better access to quality, convenient transportation," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "This is just one way to thank them for their service and to support President Obama's goal of helping provide our servicemen and

women with access to the jobs and resources they need when they come home.&#65533;

Federally-funded transportation improvements in the greater-Seacoast area include COAST&#65533;s new Clipper Connection commuter bus service, as well as increased frequency of service on regional bus routes and the development of a one-click, one-call information center that veterans, military families and others will be able to use to find information online and by phone about transportation services in the area.

&#65533;America&#65533;s war heroes and those who work so hard to support them deserve transit options that will provide reliable access to a steady paycheck and allow them to keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets,&#65533; said FTA Administrator Rogoff. &#65533;These long-term investments in the Seacoast area will reduce congestion during shift changes at the shipyard and make it easier for people who live in Portsmouth, Kittery and the surrounding areas to get to work and home each day.&#65533;

Administrator Rogoff was joined by COAST Executive Director Rad Nichols, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Deputy Public Works Officer John Wyeth, Kittery Town Manager Robert Markel and Portsmouth Assistant Mayor Robert Lister.

The Department of Transportation is providing $2.6 million to COAST to increase the frequency of regional bus routes to every 30 minutes during peak commuting periods, with matching funds provided by the New Hampshire Turnpike Authority, as part of the Little Bay Bridge rehabilitation project between Dover and Newington, New Hampshire. In addition, the department is providing $640,000 for the newly expanded Clipper Connection commuter bus service, with matching funds provided by the Navy.

The $324,000 grant was announced on Veterans Day in November 2011, and the funding is being made available today through the Federal Transit Administration&#65533;s Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) program to help veterans, military families and others connect to jobs and services through improved access to local transportation options. COAST has met all of the grant obligations and is ready to begin implementation of the project. The COAST project is one of 86 projects over two years that were selected to receive funding as part of this grant program. More information about the program can be found at http://www.fta.dot.gov/veterans.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $3.3 Million for New Fuel-Efficient Buses and Facilities in St. Cloud, Minnesota

9/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

ST. CLOUD, Minn. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood was in St. Cloud today to announce that the city will receive $3.3 million to help the St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission renovate its Metro Bus Operations Center so the facility can accommodate a fleet of transit vehicles fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG), as well as to build a CNG fueling station. Secretary LaHood was joined by Senator Amy Klobuchar, Mayor Dave Kleis and other local officials.

"In Minnesota and across the country, President Obama is committed to investing in sustainable transportation systems that improve access to jobs, education and medical care for millions of riders, while bringing cleaner air to our communities and reducing our dependence on oil," said Secretary LaHood. "These projects will also help transit agencies operate more efficiently, so they save money in the long run."

The project is one of 27 projects across the country selected to receive $59.3 million in funds through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) FY 2012 Clean Fuels Grant Program. This program is aimed at purchasing cleaner, greener buses that reduce harmful emissions and improve fuel economy while also delivering a more comfortable, reliable ride for passengers. The funds will help achieve President Obama's goal of an independent and secure energy future.

"As more and more Americans choose to ride the bus to work in St. Cloud and elsewhere, it's good to know that they can depend on vehicles that won't pollute the neighborhood while also helping us to achieve greater energy independence," said FTA Administrator Rogoff. "By investing in these clean-fuel projects today, we're helping to ensure that transit service is good for the environment for years to come."

Demand for FY 2012 funding was competitive, with FTA receiving 146 project applications totaling $516 million. A list of all 27 project selections, and a related map, can be found here: http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants_14835.html.

In FY 2010 and FY 2011, FTA's Clean Fuels Program awarded $89.7 million for 36 projects and $62.8 million for 29 projects, respectively. This year's projects were competitively selected based on their ability to help communities achieve or maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and carbon monoxide while supporting emerging clean fuel and advanced propulsion technologies for transit buses.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $59.3 Million for Clean, Energy-Efficient Transit Projects Across the United States

9/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that 27 projects will receive a combined $59.3 million to help transit agencies purchase and support cleaner, greener buses that reduce harmful emissions and improve fuel economy while also delivering a more comfortable, reliable ride for passengers. The funds from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) FY 2012 Clean Fuels Grant Program will help achieve President Obama's goal for an independent and secure energy future.

"President Obama is committed to investing in sustainable transportation systems that improve access to jobs, education and medical care for millions of riders, while bringing cleaner air to our communities and reducing our dependence on oil," said Secretary LaHood. "These projects will also help transit agencies operate more efficiently, and save money in the long run."

The types of projects selected to receive funding include replacing aging diesel buses with new hybrid-electric, compressed natural gas (CNG) or zero-emissions electric vehicles; building new fueling stations to accommodate alternative-fuel vehicles; and purchasing new clean-fuel hybrid batteries for buses.

"As more and more Americans choose to ride the bus to work and elsewhere, it's good to know that they can depend on vehicles that won't pollute their neighborhoods while also helping us to achieve greater energy independence," said FTA Administrator Rogoff. "By investing in these clean-fuel projects today, we're helping to ensure that the nation's transit services are good for the environment for years to come."

Demand for FY2012 funding was competitive, with FTA receiving 146 project applications totaling $516 million. A list of all 27 project selections, and a related map, can be found here: http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants_14835.html.

Some projects selected for funding include:

- $3.3 million for the St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission in St. Cloud, Minnesota to renovate its Metro Bus Operations Center so the facility can accommodate a fleet of compressed natural gas (CNG) fueled vehicles and a CNG fueling station.
- $4.4 million for the Transit Authority of River City in Louisville, Kentucky, to replace outdated, high-emission trolley cars with zero-emission buses, which will bring the transit system into compliance with federal clean air requirements for the first time and enable the transit authority to save on operating costs for years to come.
- $2.5 million for Florida's Miami-Dade County to retrofit older buses with new electric engine cooling systems that will improve fuel economy, reduce emissions, and prolong the life of the transit bus fleet; and
- $4.5 million for the Worcester Regional Transit Authority in Worcester, Massachusetts, to replace aging diesel transit buses with zero-emission, all-electric buses, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease fuel consumption, and save on operating costs.

In FY 2010 and FY 2011, FTA's Clean Fuels Program awarded $89.7 million for 36 projects and $62.8 million for 29 projects, respectively. This year's projects were competitively selected based on their ability to help communities achieve or maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and carbon monoxide while supporting emerging clean fuel and advanced propulsion technologies for transit buses.

Transit ridership across the U.S. has increased 16 out of the last 19 months, and in July 2012, ridership was up by 2.5 percent over the prior 12-month period.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $3 Million for New Zero- Emission Electric Buses, Charging Station in Nashville

9/14/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

NASHVILLE – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced just over $3 million to help the Nashville Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (MTA) purchase new zero emissions electric buses and install an electric charging station at Riverfront Station, a popular transit hub for workers and tourists traveling to downtown destinations. Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff traveled to Nashville today to participate in the announcement on behalf of the department. He was joined by Mayor Karl Dean, Tennessee Transportation Commissioner John Schroer, MTA Board Chair Thomas "Freddie" O'Connell, MTA Chief Executive Officer Paul Ballard and other local officials.

"In Tennessee and across the country, President Obama is committed to investing in sustainable transportation systems that improve access to jobs, education, and medical care for millions of riders, while bringing cleaner air to our communities and reducing our dependence on oil," said Secretary LaHood. "These projects will also help transit agencies operate more efficiently, so they save money in the long run."

The project is one of 27 projects across the country selected to receive $59.3 million in funds through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA)

FY 2012 Clean Fuels Grant Program. This program is aimed at purchasing cleaner, greener buses that reduce harmful emissions and improve fuel economy while also delivering a more comfortable, reliable ride for passengers. The funds will help achieve President Obama's goal of an independent and secure energy future.

"As more and more Americans choose to ride the bus to work in Nashville and elsewhere, it's good to know that they can depend on vehicles that won't pollute the neighborhood while also helping us to achieve greater energy independence," said FTA Administrator Rogoff. "By investing in these clean-fuel projects today, we're helping to ensure that transit service is good for the environment for years to come."

Demand for FY 2012 funding was competitive, with FTA receiving 146 project applications totaling $516 million. A list of all 27 project selections, and a related map, can be found here: http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants_14835.html.

In FY 2010 and FY 2011, FTA's Clean Fuels Program awarded $89.7 million for 36 projects and $62.8 million for 29 projects, respectively. This year's projects were competitively selected based on their ability to help communities achieve or maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and carbon monoxide while supporting emerging clean fuel and advanced propulsion technologies for transit buses.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Joins Cleveland Officials for New Transit Station Groundbreaking

9/19/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

CLEVELAND – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined Cleveland officials to break ground for a new, fully accessible transit facility near Case Western Reserve University that will serve as one of Cleveland's busiest bus transfer centers. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is providing more than $14 million for the project, including $10.5 million through DOT's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

"This project is a huge win for Cleveland and demonstrates President Obama's commitment to building strong, sustainable cities that encourage economic growth and development," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "These station improvements will make it more convenient than ever for riders to take transit to work, school, medical care and elsewhere."

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) aging Cedar University Station and bus terminal, built in 1956, will be razed to make way for the new station, which will improve pedestrian and bicycle access and be fully compatible with the Americans with Disabilities Act, making it easier for people with disabilities to take transit. A portion of land

surrounding the station will be converted into parkland. Construction is expected to be completed within two years.

“Cleveland deserves a modern, comfortable transit system that offers a desirable and reliable alternative to sitting in traffic or spending more money at the gas pump,” said Administrator Rogoff. “This project helps to ensure that University Circle remains a vibrant, attractive neighborhood offering good transportation choices to hard-working families, students, and other residents.”

Joining Rogoff at the event were Mayor Frank Jackson, Cleveland City Councilwoman Mamie Mitchell, RTA General Manager Joe Calabrese, and other local officials.

The total cost of the project is $18.5 million, with additional funds provided by local sources, including the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and a group of local businesses led by the Cleveland Foundation, including University Circle Inc., Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals and the Cleveland Clinic.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Kicking Off First Public Meeting on New Transit Safety and Oversight Authority

Officials Meet with External Safety Advisory Committee to Chart a New Course for Oversight of Public Transit Safety under MAP-21

9/20/2012
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today kicked off the first meeting of the Transit Rail Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) since President Obama signed the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21), which, for the first time, granted the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) authority to implement and enforce transit safety oversight standards on heavy rail, light rail, buses, ferries and streetcars.

"Under MAP-21, we're ushering in a new era for transit safety. Working with the committee advisors and state leaders, we'll help strengthen state safety oversight agencies to carry out this vitally important mission," said Secretary LaHood. "Public transit remains one of the safest ways to travel in the U.S., and we intend to keep it that way."

FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff is leading the two-day public meeting, which brings together transit industry officials, transportation safety experts, transportation labor groups, and academics to provide advice and recommendations on implementing the new law.

The session will give FTA officials the opportunity to listen to feedback and best practices from participants as the agency begins the process of establishing a comprehensive new framework to oversee the safety of public transportation throughout the United States. TRACS members will leave the meeting with specific assignments, which will lead to recommendations on how best to implement key provisions in the law.

"With the new authority entrusted to us, we are committed to establishing basic safety standards to better ensure the safety of tens of millions of passengers that ride public transportation each day," said Administrator Rogoff. "We anticipate that the TRACS advisory committee will offer valuable guidance and insight to help us establish workable, enforceable transit safety oversight."

The agenda includes a discussion of MAP-21 safety requirements and development of a public transportation safety certification training program that applies to federal and state employees or others who conduct audits or are responsible for safety oversight.

Since 1964, FTA has been prohibited by law from implementing and enforcing basic safety standards for public rail and bus transit systems. The new safety authority provided in MAP-21 is a culmination of efforts by the FTA and U.S. Department of Transportation that began in December 2009, when Secretary LaHood formally transmitted to Congress a legislative proposal to establish and enforce minimum federal safety standards for rail transit systems.

TRACS is a Federal Advisory Committee chartered by the Secretary of Transportation, which first met in September 2010. The committee's purpose is to provide information, advice, and recommendations to the Federal Transit Administration on matters relating to the safety of public transportation systems.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Celebrates Opening of New Bus Rapid Transit Lines in Fast-Growing Seattle Communities

9/28/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

SEATTLE – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today celebrated the opening of two new bus rapid transit (BRT) lines that are part of an ongoing effort to expand transit options in the growing Seattle region and connect residents in Seattle's suburbs to the downtown area, SeaTac Airport and beyond. He joined Senator Patty Murray, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinnis, King County Executive Dow Constantine and other officials at the opening.

"In Seattle and across America, bus rapid transit is giving more riders more convenient transit options for getting to work, school, medical care and elsewhere," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "This kind of project supports President Obama's goal of supporting transportation projects that create jobs and support local economies."

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is providing more than $104 million for six RapidRide BRT lines covering 64 miles in the greater Seattle area. The new RapidRide C and D lines connect residents in the popular neighborhoods of West Seattle, Ballard and Crown Hill to downtown Seattle. Both lines serve major centers of development and activity with

new housing, retail and commercial space being developed and under construction within blocks of the bus service.

“King County’s RapidRide lines are a great example of bus rapid transit done right,” said Administrator Rogoff. “RapidRide’s bus lines are a transformational investment in a part of Seattle that is booming economically with housing, retail and commercial space now under construction or recently completed within just blocks of these routes,”

DOT also funded the RapidRide A and B Lines, which opened in 2010 and 2011, respectively, and currently serve more than 13,000 riders on an average weekday. Service on the E and F Lines is slated to begin next fall.

In addition to RapidRide, DOT is helping to fund the expansion of Sound Transit’s light rail service in the Seattle area, creating a seamless network of transit that will take riders from the University of Washington to the Northgate transit center in north Seattle, from downtown Seattle to the University of Washington via Capitol Hill, and from SeaTac Airport to South 200th Street in SeaTac.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Approves $545.9 Million Loan to Advance Public Transit in Los Angeles

10/1/2012
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WASHINGTON—U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has approved a $545.9 million Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan that will enable the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) to advance construction of a new light rail transit line along the Crenshaw corridor that will enhance access to existing transit service throughout Los Angeles.

"President Obama called for an America built to last, and this loan program can help us achieve that," said Secretary LaHood. "This important investment in the future Metro Crenshaw Line will create jobs in Los Angeles, building a major transportation project that will help the regional economy continue to grow and prosper."

The Crenshaw/LAX transit corridor project consists of a new 8.5-mile light rail line and at least six new transit stations with off-street parking. The line will connect existing rail service on the Metro Green Line with the Metro Exposition Line, which recently opened for service, making it easier for low-income residents, seniors and other riders to reach downtown Los Angeles, the Westside, South Bay and the cities of Inglewood, Hawthorne and El Segundo. The project also includes a new transit vehicle maintenance and storage facility.

"The TIFIA program goes a long way for communities like Los Angeles that use these loans to leverage additional funding for important projects like expanding light rail, which connects millions of area residents with jobs, while reducing congestion and improving air quality," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

The TIFIA credit program is designed to fill market gaps and leverage substantial private co-investment by providing supplemental and subordinate capital. Each dollar of federal funds can provide up to $10 in TIFIA credit assistance and support up to $30 in transportation infrastructure investment.

Since its launch, the TIFIA program has helped 27 projects turn $9.2 billion in DOT assistance into $36 billion in infrastructure investment across

America. The recently enacted transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), transforms TIFIA into the largest transportation infrastructure loan program in history, making available up to $17 billion in credit assistance for critical infrastructure projects.

The Department's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, which provides credit assistance for infrastructure projects, provided the $545.9 million toward the $1.75 billion Crenshaw/LAX transit corridor project. The TIFIA loan was made possible through a TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) II grant. Projects were selected based on their ability to contribute to the long-term economic competitiveness of the nation, improve the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, increase livability and create or preserve jobs quickly.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Tours State-of-Good-Repair and Recovery Act Investments in South Dakota

10/10/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

PIERRE, S.D. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood toured a significantly modernized and expanded River Cities Transit Facility in South Dakota today, which received approximately $5 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the project and related transit improvements. Secretary LaHood was joined by U.S. Senator Tim Johnson, Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff and state and local officials.

"The Obama Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing transit maintenance facilities like this one into a state of good repair," said Secretary LaHood. "Here in South Dakota and across the United States, these investments in our public transportation infrastructure help reduce maintenance costs and ensure that today's riders and future generations can get to jobs, schools, medical appointments and other destinations."

The upgraded facility includes space to service and maintain nearly 100 buses and other transit vehicles in the River Cities Public Transit fleet. It also includes a new dispatch center with upgraded computer scheduling and GPS technology to better monitor and track vehicles to keep them on schedule.

The U.S. Department of Transportation provided approximately $5 million altogether for facility improvements and new transit vehicles from several discretionary grant programs, including $1.7 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; $1.6 million from FTA's FY2011 and FY2012 State of Good Repair Program; and $1.7 million from FTA's 2009 Bus and Bus Facilities Program. River Cities Public Transit also received a total of $369,300 through FTA's Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative to improve transit scheduling and outreach to transit-dependent veterans.

"As more people turn to transit to get where they need to go, it becomes even more important to keep our transit systems in good, safe condition," said Administrator Rogoff. "Because transit is a lifeline for many seniors, veterans and tribal residents living in Pierre, Hughes County and the surrounding region, it's vitally important to keep the buses they depend on efficient, reliable and in good working order."

The improved River Cities Transit Facility supports public transportation service within a 100-mile radius for people living in 11 counties in central South Dakota, including seniors, people with disabilities, veterans and the Cheyenne River Sioux and Lower Brule Sioux tribes.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $942.2 Million to Extend San Francisco's Third Street Light Rail System

10/11/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

SAN FRANCISCO — U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced an agreement to provide $942.2 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to extend San Francisco's Third Street light rail system through the city's busy Chinatown neighborhood, bringing light rail back to the heavily transit-dependent Third Street corridor for the first time in 50 years.

Secretary LaHood was joined at an official grant signing ceremony by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff and state and local officials.

"San Francisco's light rail system already plays a vital role in connecting hard-working families, seniors, and visitors with the city's major employment and medical centers, colleges, and recreational facilities," said Secretary LaHood. "This project to extend the line even further reflects the Obama Administration's commitment to making smart investments in our nation's transit infrastructure."

The new T-Third Light Rail extension, part of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (MTA) Central Subway project, will run from the downtown business district north to Chinatown along one of the city's most heavily-traveled corridors. Once completed, it will improve transit options between the Financial District and Union Square, while connecting Chinatown with existing Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) rail service, Caltrain and other transportation services. According to the MTA, project construction is expected to create about 1,000 jobs by the end of this year, with many more jobs to follow as tunnel construction gets under way in 2013.

"This project will bring much-needed relief to tens of thousands of riders who have had to wait in long lines and squeeze onto over-crowded buses in one of the most densely populated urban communities in the country," said Administrator Rogoff. "It will also provide a lifeline to many low-income residents who do not own cars, and are looking for an affordable and efficient route into the downtown business district and beyond."

Federal funding for the project is provided to the San Francisco MTA through FTA's Capital Investment Program (New Starts). The $1.6 billion project will extend Muni light rail service by 1.7 miles of the T-Third line from the 4th Street Caltrain Station to Chinatown and includes construction of four new stations, three of them underground. The first phase of the T-Third Street light rail line went into service in 2007. Once the extension opens, the projected ridership along the entire 6.8-mile T-Third line is estimated to be 43,700 daily boardings per weekday, the highest ridership in the system.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $75 Million to Extend Light Rail in Arizona

10/12/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

MESA, Arizona – U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood today visited Mesa to take part in a grant signing ceremony providing the city with $75 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to build a 3.1-mile light rail extension connecting the city with Phoenix and Tempe. Secretary LaHood was joined at the event by Congressman Ed Pastor, Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff and local officials.

"The Obama Administration is committed to bringing more public transportation choices to fast-growing cities like Mesa," said Secretary LaHood. "By investing in this light rail project, we are helping thousands of workers, seniors, students and others in Maricopa County connect with jobs, medical care, and all the services this region has to offer."

The new Central Mesa Extension, operated by Valley Metro Rail, will run from Sycamore to Mesa Drive on Main Street and connect residents in the downtown hubs of Phoenix, Mesa, and Tempe. It is expected to spur new residential and commercial development in downtown Mesa while providing convenient, reliable access to Arizona State University and Sky Harbor International Airport.

�In Arizona and across the country, people are choosing transit over traffic,� said Administrator Rogoff, who toured the planned route in March 2011. �Extending the popular Central Mesa light rail line will open more doors to economic opportunity and spur new commercial development downtown, while reducing congestion in one of the state�s fastest-growing regions.�

Federal funding for the project includes $75 million through FTA�s Capital Investment (New Starts/Small Starts) program and $53 million in federal congestion mitigation funds. Funding for the remainder of the $199 million project comes from state and local sources. Over the last six months, ridership on Valley Metro light rail has risen 6.2 percent on average, compared with the same period in 2011.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $580 Million To Extend Charlotte's LYNX Blue Line

10/16/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced an agreement to provide Charlotte with $580 million to extend the LYNX Blue Line light rail system from downtown Charlotte to the city's University of North Carolina campus. The new extension will effectively double the length of the system so that thousands more residents and students in the rapidly growing region can conveniently access light rail.

"The Obama Administration is committed to helping fast-growing cities like Charlotte build a modern, efficient transportation network that will attract economic development and help the region to manage growth and reduce congestion," said Secretary LaHood. "Across America, we're investing in projects like this one that are built to last and will keep our economy moving forward."

Over the last decade, Charlotte, home to numerous Fortune 500 companies, has grown faster than any other urban area with a population of one million or more, according to the U.S. Census. Light rail ridership has mirrored that growth, far exceeding expectations with more than 19 million riders

since the line opened in 2007, and more than 15,000 riders on an average weekday.

"We continue to support Charlotte's efforts to develop a public transportation system that works for everyone," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, who was in Charlotte to announce the funding agreement along with Congressman Mel Watt, Mayor Anthony Foxx and local officials.

"Extending light rail northward to establish a direct new transit link between two of UNC's flagship campuses opens up new opportunities for students and residents throughout Mecklenburg County," he added.

The 9.3 mile LYNX Blue Line light rail extension will add service along what will become an 18.6-mile corridor in Northeast Charlotte and will help to reduce congestion along Interstate 85 and US 29, where commercial and residential growth is expected to continue.

The $580 million federal share of the $1.2 billion project is provided to the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) through FTA's Capital Investment (New Starts) Program. The remaining cost is covered by state and local funding.

Today's funding announcement is the latest in a series of investments in Charlotte's transportation future made by FTA and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). In December 2011, Secretary LaHood announced that DOT would provide $18 million through its Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program to expand capacity on the existing LYNX Blue Line by enabling CATS to build additional power substations and extended platforms at three stations to accommodate more riders during peak hours and special events. Preliminary design work is under way.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $32 Million to Build Silver Line Bus Rapid Transit in Grand Rapids

10/18/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced an agreement to provide $32 million for the city of Grand Rapids to build the Silver Line bus rapid transit (BRT) system, which will offer faster and more convenient access to major downtown employers along the city's busy commercial corridor. FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff was joined by Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, Kentwood Mayor Richard Clanton, Wyoming Mayor Jack Poll, and local officials at a signing ceremony in Grand Rapids.

"President Obama is committed to bringing more transportation choices to Michigan and across the country," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Bringing a new bus rapid transit service into downtown Grand Rapids offers efficient, affordable access to jobs, medical care and educational opportunities for thousands of area commuters, students, and seniors."

The new Silver Line will be operated by Interurban Transit Partnership, known as The Rapid. The 9.6-mile route will serve major employers, including St. Mary's Medical campus, the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, and the Cook-DeVos School of Nursing, which

together employ about 29,000 area residents. Compared to non-BRT service, the new Silver Line will be faster because it eliminates the need for a transfer between stops and uses dedicated bus lanes for much of the route.

"The Silver Line is a great example of bus rapid transit that's done right," said Rogoff. "The new service will shave commuting times nearly in half for many workers traveling to and from the Medical Mile, while helping to reduce congestion on US 131."

The Federal Transit Administration is providing approximately $32 million to The Rapid for the nearly $40 million project, including $19 million through its Capital Investment (Small Starts) Program and $13 million through its Bus and Bus Facilities grant program. The remaining cost is covered by state funding.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Celebrates New Bus Rapid Transit Service in Monterey

11/12/2012
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MONTEREY, Calif. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today attended the grand opening of the first completed high-tech bus shelter on the new Monterey-Salinas Transit JAZZ Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line. The new BRT service, funded in part by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), will cut commuting times roughly in half for riders on existing bus service and improve transit connections for thousands of active-duty military, hospitality workers, and tourists traveling to Cannery Row, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and other attractions. The Secretary was joined at the event by Congressman Sam Farr, Sand City Mayor David Pendergrass, and local officials.

"This new bus rapid transit line will give residents and tourists a safer, more efficient option for getting to work, to school, or wherever they need to go," said Secretary LaHood. "And it is fitting that we are celebrating its start as we honor our nation's heroes, with so many area military families who can take advantage of the new line. Providing our military and veterans with safe, reliable transportation options is the least we can do to thank them for their service."

The JAZZ BRT system serves a 6.75-mile route between Sand City Station and the aquarium and travels through Seaside, where many transit-dependent hospitality workers reside. Monterey County is also home to roughly 16,000 active-duty and civilian military personnel, including those stationed at Monterey's U.S. Coast Guard station. Military ridership on Monterey-Salinas Transit's non-BRT bus service grew by more than 300 percent between 2010 and 2012. Additional BRT stops will open near area military facilities as well as other local employment centers and area attractions.

"The Monterey JAZZ line is a great example of BRT done right and an effective way to reduce commuting times for thousands who live and work in Monterey, Seaside, and Sand City," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Traffic signals will be timed to help BRT vehicles and drivers alike to reach work or home faster, which improves the quality of life for everyone who would prefer to spend less time in traffic."

FTA has committed $2.77 million to the $5 million project through its Small Starts capital program. The remainder is from California state and local funds. The JAZZ line began operating on September 1, serving temporary stations. In partnership with the Monterey Jazz Festival, the new Sand City Station and 24 new bus shelters along the route will allow waiting passengers to download jazz concert recordings from past festival performances.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $15.5 Million to Improve Transit Options for American Indians, Alaska Natives on Tribal Lands

12/5/2012
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that 72 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes would receive a share of approximately $15.5 million through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Tribal Transit Program to enhance local public transit service on tribal lands. The Secretary made the announcement during his remarks to Tribal Leaders at the 2012 White House Tribal Nations Conference.

"The Obama Administration understands that access to reliable, affordable transportation is a high priority for Indian Country," said Secretary LaHood. "These funds will enable tribal governments first and foremost to continue providing transit services that thousands depend on every day, and in some cases to plan for future service as well."

The funds were competitively awarded to tribes in 18 states for projects to continue or enhance transit services; launch new public transportation; or plan for future transit needs. Tribal residents often face significant transportation challenges, as many cannot afford to own a vehicle and yet must travel long distances across rural lands to reach basic services.

"Access to affordable public transit is a lifeline for millions of hard-working families," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "We want to ensure that every American Indian or Alaskan native who needs a ride to earn a paycheck, attend school, see the doctor, visit sacred places, or buy groceries has that opportunity."

Examples of some projects receiving funds include:

- The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe will receive $350,000 to continue to provide public transit service to the growing number of tribal members and the general public who use it to travel to employment, education, medical care and other services in Eagle Butte and surrounding rural areas.
- The Morongo Band of Mission Indians in Southern California will receive $158,999 to purchase a vehicle to launch a new on-demand,

dial-a-ride transit service—the first such service on the reservation—that will provide access for the general public to jobs, health care, and essential services for the elderly on California's third largest reservation.
- The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin will receive $25,000 for a planning study to improve transportation options to better connect tribal members and the general public to Bay Area Rural Transit services in Ashland County.

A complete list of projects funded can be found at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/12305_14934.html.

Under the new two-year surface transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), FTA's Tribal Transit Program will roughly double in fund from amounts awarded in recent years, but change from an entirely discretionary program to a mostly formula-based one. Over each of the next two fiscal years (FY 2013 and FY 2014), projects will be funded based on a formula that allocates $25 million to eligible Indian tribes and sets aside $5 million to be allocated competitively. The amount of formula funds awarded is determined by several factors, including the miles a transit vehicle travels while in active service and the number of low-income individuals that reside on tribal lands. FTA is actively reaching out to tribal and rural stakeholders to discuss the impact of proposed program changes and funding priorities.

Between Fiscal Years 2006 and 2011, 172 tribal transit programs received a total of approximately $72.7 million to enhance, launch, or plan for transit service on tribal lands under the FTA Tribal Transit Program.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Charlotte Streetcar Starter Line

12/12/2012
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today joined Mayor Anthony Foxx and other local officials to break ground on the Charlotte Streetcar Starter Project – the first phase of a planned 10-mile streetcar line that will expand transit options, spur economic development and improve access to jobs, education and medical facilities in the heart of one of the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan areas.

"The streetcar project moves Charlotte a step closer to building a truly connected transit system that will enable commuters, students and visitors to travel seamlessly in and out of downtown," said Secretary LaHood. "The Obama Administration will continue to invest in sustainable transportation choices that keep cities like Charlotte vibrant and growing."

The initial 1.5-mile section of the Charlotte Streetcar line will include six stops along an east-west transit corridor that will make it easy for passengers to catch either a local transit bus or board the LYNX light rail service heading north and south from the Charlotte Transportation Center, where all these services intersect. Today's groundbreaking was held at Presbyterian Hospital, one of the stops on the route. The project is funded with $25 million from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Urban Circulator Grant Program. The total project cost is $37 million, with the City of Charlotte contributing $12 million.

"The streetcar line represents an exciting new chapter in Charlotte's rapidly evolving public transportation network," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "It will help to accelerate new economic activity along Trade Street and Elizabeth Avenue while capitalizing on the tremendous success of the LYNX light rail service."

Charlotte has benefitted significantly from federal investments in local transit. Since 2007, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has committed $797 million for the LYNX Blue Line light rail construction. This investment includes $580 million announced in October 2012 to effectively double the length of the Blue Line from uptown Charlotte to the city's University of North Carolina Charlotte campus and an $18 million grant through the department's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating

Economic Recovery) program announced in December 2011 to expand capacity on the existing Blue Line to accommodate more riders during peak hours and special events.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Approves $120 Million Loan to Strengthen Public Transit in Dallas

Investment Reflects Ongoing Commitment to Major Transit Enhancements in Dallas Region

12/14/2012
Contact: Amy Bernstein
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WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood yesterday approved a nearly $120 million loan that will enable Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to advance construction on the third phase of its light rail Orange Line extension project. The extension, which will connect Irving, Texas, with Dallas Fort Worth Airport (DFW), is part of a long-term effort to create a 90-mile light rail network by 2014 to serve the Dallas metropolitan area.

"This investment will continue expanding Dallas' Orange Line, creating jobs and delivering a major transportation project that will help the regional economy continue to grow and prosper," said Secretary LaHood. "It's all part of President Obama's vision of rebuilding America, providing commuters and visitors with a variety of transportation options to fit their needs."

DART's $119.9 million Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan will help finance the $397 million Orange Line Phase III expansion. The 35-year direct loan will be used to fund construction of a key 5.17-mile segment of DART's 14.5-mile light rail Orange Line. Once completed, the expanded line will improve east-west connections between DFW and the DART system by connecting to the Green Line that runs through downtown Dallas as well as to other transit services, including commuter rail.

"The TIFIA program is instrumental in helping Dallas realize an ambitious goal to complete one of the largest light rail systems in the country," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Bringing the Orange Line to DFW will connect millions of residents and visitors with the heart of downtown Irving and Dallas, while reducing congestion and improving air quality."

Since 1999, the TIFIA program has helped 30 projects turn $10.4 billion in credit assistance into $41.8 billion in infrastructure investment across

America. The new surface transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), transforms TIFIA into the largest transportation infrastructure loan program in history, making available up to $17 billion in credit assistance for critical infrastructure projects. The Department of Transportation has committed a total of approximately $796 million since 1996 to help DART build the Green and Orange Line portions of an extensive light rail system. On December 3, DART opened two new stations on the Orange Line to Irving and one new station on the Blue Line, expanding light rail transit options from Garland to Rowlett. The number of trips on the Green Line more than tripled between Fiscal Years 2010 and 2012 and in its first three months of operation, the Orange Line provided more than 910,000 trips.

###

Federal Transit Administration Announces Opening of Transit Center at University of Idaho Campus

12/14/2012
Contact: Allison Lantero
202-366-8224

MOSCOW, ID—Representatives from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) joined Mayor Nancy Chaney and University of Idaho President Duane Nellis to announce the dedication of a new Intermodal Transit Center in Moscow. The new center serves as a one-stop transit hub for public and private transit providers in the Palouse region of north central Idaho. The $2.7 million facility was funded in part by a $1.5 million TIGER (Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"All across the country, our TIGER grant program is making it possible for good, local transportation projects like this one to meet the growing demand for transit that takes people where they need to go in big and small cities alike," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "The Obama Administration is committed to investing in more good projects like this one that strengthen communities and keep our economy moving forward."

The new transit center enables transit and bike riders to connect with Moscow Valley Transit buses, the University of Idaho's Vandal Shuttle, and intercity bus service from Northwestern Trailways and Wheatland Express. The facility, built to meet LEED standards for environmental sustainability, includes a bicycle parking area and administrative offices for area transportation services.

"This center is a big win for everyone in Moscow and Latah County," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "University students can save their gas money for tuition and textbooks, while commuters, seniors, and others have ready access to merchants like WalMart, QuickCare, and other destinations they need to reach on a daily basis."

In addition to the TIGER funds, FTA awarded $436,000 in bus and bus facility funds earmarked for the project.

###

Federal Transit Administration Highlights Launch of New Bus Rapid Transit Service in San Antonio

12/17/2012
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San Antonio, Texas – The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) applauded the official opening of San Antonio's first bus rapid transit (BRT) line today, which will bring efficient, state-of-the-art transit service to thousands of commuters, students, seniors and others traveling the busy Fredericksburg Road corridor in Bexar County. FTA contributed $52.6 million toward the project, or about 75 percent of the total $70 million cost.

"Today, residents in San Antonio are experiencing the convenience, comfort and affordability of bus rapid transit as they travel to work, school, medical appointments and other destinations," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "The Obama Administration is committed to investing in more good projects like this one across the country, to revitalize our downtown centers, reduce congestion and keep our economy moving forward."

The new VIA Primo BRT service features eight stops along a 20-mile corridor that takes riders to the area's largest employment centers at the newly opened South Texas Medical Center Transit Center and in downtown San Antonio. In addition, BRT riders can board connecting bus service to the main campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio. The Westside Multimodal Transit Center in the Cattleman Square neighborhood, which was awarded a $15 million TIGER (Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery) grant, is slated to open early next year and is also on the route.

�This new BRT service is a great addition to the transit choices already available to residents of San Antonio and Bexar County, where ridership is among the fastest-growing in the nation,� said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. �It will also help spur economic development on the city�s near West Side.�

In addition to funding for this project, in Fiscal Years 2010-2012, VIA Metropolitan Transit received approximately $8.5 million in discretionary FTA State-of-Good-Repair funds to help modernize, replace, and repair aging vehicles and transit facilities to keep its transit systems operating efficiently.

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U.S. Department of Transportation Signs $1.55 Billion Federal Funding Agreement to Build First Rail Transit System in Hawaii

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WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today participated in a ceremony to sign an agreement to provide $1.55 billion to the City and County of Honolulu on the island of Oahu to build Hawaii's first-ever rail transit system. The project is expected to shorten commutes in one of the most congested cities in the nation, provide greater transit options to Oahu's residents and visitors, and create tens of thousands of construction-related jobs.

"The Honolulu rail transit project, the first of its kind in the state, will bring new transit options to the growing region and create a modern transportation system that is built to last for future generations," said U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood. "And though, sadly, Senator Inouye cannot be here with us today, this agreement is a testament to his tireless advocacy on behalf of his state and its people."

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff signed the actual federal funding agreement at a ceremony in Washington D.C. today. Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff were joined by Senator Daniel Akaka,

Senator-Elect Mazie Hirono, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle, Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) CEO Dan Grabauskas and City Council Chairman Ernest Martin.

The funding agreement seals the federal commitment to the project a 20-mile rail line with 21 rail stations that will connect riders with key education, employment and activity centers in Honolulu. The rail corridor encompasses West Oahu, Pearl City, Aloha Stadium, Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Honolulu International Airport, downtown Honolulu, and Ala Moana Center, Oahu s largest shopping center. HART estimates that the project could generate as many as 10,000 jobs annually during construction.

Hawaii s first rail transit system will be a game-changer for the region because it will serve nearly 80 percent of Oahu s total population, including thousands of workers who commute into Honolulu every day from West Oahu, said Administrator Rogoff. This historic project will cut commute times west of the city by more than 30 minutes each way, drastically improving the quality of life for residents who want to spend less time in their cars, more time with their families, and enjoy cleaner air.

The Federal Transit Administration is providing just under $1.8 billion in federal funds for the $5.1 billion project, including $1.55 billion through the Major Capital Investments (New Starts) Program, $209.9 million in federal formula funds and $4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Local taxpayers are providing $3.358 billion about 65 percent of the total project cost through a half-percent General Excise and Use Tax surcharge paid by Oahu tourists, residents and businesses.

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